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THE TIMES

Saturday Review: The decade in retrospect, pages 5-7

US protest at use of Soviet troops in Afghanistan coup

United States yesterday issued mal protest to Moscow at the of Soviet troops in the anistan coup. The Russians ed their airlift by saying they had responded to an urgent request from the Kabul Government for help. President Brezhnev wished Mr Babrak Karmal, who came to power in the coup, much success.

Russians say airlift justified

lichael Binyon
, Dec 28

lent Brezhnev today his warmest congratula- the new leader of stan who came back ile in Eastern Europe throw the Government dent Amin yesterday. elegram to Mr Babrak the Soviet leader said artily "congratulated" his election as the secretary of the central e of the People's tic Party of Afghani- to the other high state the country.

behalf of the Soviet p and from me per- wish you much success many-sided activities, the welfare of the people".

zhnev said he was sure be present conditions ian people would be defend the gains of ril revolution, the ty, independence, and dignity of the new an.

ussians justified their troops to Afghanistan they had responded ent request from the ernment for help. hich last night gave ccount of the coup, statement by the new nt calling on the Rus- lp to defend the gains pril revolution that Marxist Government last year.

tement, broadcast on lio, said the Afghan nt took into account inuing and growing e and provocations l enemies of Afghan-

r, therefore, to de- ains of the April revo- ritorial integrity, nat- endence and to main- and security—and from the treaty of friendship and cooperation of December 5, 1978—it "approached the Soviet Union with an insistent request for urgent political, moral and economic aid, including military aid".

The Soviet Government, the statement said, had met the Afghan request.

In a later version of the statement, Tass added the significant phrase to the mention of requests for aid: "which the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan repeatedly requested from the Government of the Soviet Union previously." The qualifying addition makes the recent airlift seem less obviously related to the coup.

Observers in Moscow noted that the phrasing of the statement was similar to that quoted by the Russians from Prague and used to justify the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Tass also reported that "the bloody clique of Hafizullah Amin and his flunkies, agents of American imperialism" had been overthrown.

Quoting Kabul radio, the agency said that president Amin was found guilty of crimes against the Afghan people and executed by the sentence of the revolutionary court.

People's power had been proclaimed in the country which would fight for the "final victory of the national-democratic, anti-feudal, anti-imperialist revolution for the establishment of a free, independent Afghanistan."

The Russians had poor relations with president Amin, who overthrew the former President Nur Muhammad Tarakki in a bloody palace shoot-out on September 14, only a week after Mr Tarakki was publicly embraced by President Brezhnev in Moscow.

The party newspaper *Pravda* stopped its presses last night to fit in a lengthy report of the address given by Mr Karmal. Soviet sources said the newspaper had advance warning of the coup from Soviet personnel in Kabul as well as from local radio monitoring.

Tass gave prominence to Mr Karmal's pledges to respect "the sacred Islamic religion" as well as the family, national and popular traditions, Afghan independence and democracy.

One reason for the Russians' dislike of President Amin was his refusal to follow their advice to slow down the pace of reforms touching family and social life and religion which deeply antagonized rural tribesmen and fuelled the rebellion.

The Soviet media have made no mention of the scale of troop reinforcements in Afghanistan, nor has there yet been any reply to Western accusations of Soviet interference in the country's internal affairs. Before news of the coup broke, the American Ambassador in Moscow yesterday discussed the Soviet airlift with Mr Viktor Maltsev, a Deputy Foreign Minister.

The 20-year treaty of friendship with Afghanistan, signed in Moscow last year and used in justification of Soviet military aid to quell the rebellion, says in its fourth clause that both countries shall consult each other, and by agreement take "appropriate measures to ensure the security, independence and territorial integrity of the two countries".

In order to strengthen their defence capacity, the two parties agreed to "continue to develop cooperation in the military field on the basis of appropriate agreements".

The Russians have signed seven other such treaties with their friends throughout the world, but two—with Egypt and Somalia—were unilaterally annulled.

Mr Carter cuts short holiday

d Cross
, Dec 28

ited States today formal protest to out the use of Soviet yesterday's coup in .

Department spokes- e coup had "serious " and the White ded to issue a policy n the situation later

eantime, the spokes- he United States did y external threat to ty of Afghanistan ld have justified ions taken by Soviet ng the Kabul coup. ng in the country be "indigenous and ing", affecting al groups and parts nan, the spokesman

Carter returned to today, cutting short ear holiday at Camp d summoned his licy and military discuss the Afghan

ives for the coup ewhat unclear. But ion officials specu- Moscow had fallen President Amin use of his inability n the growing Mus- n.

details of yester- are still sketchy, State Department officials are concerned that it will lead to even closer ties between Moscow and Kabul. While the officials have not yet determined whether the coup was expressly arranged by the Soviet Union, they believe that it had Moscow's full blessing.

Whatever the final outcome, the coup has reinforced the Administration's fears that Moscow is seeking to transform what was once a buffer state between East and West into a fully-fledged Soviet satellite. In recent days Washington has protested to Moscow on several occasions about unwarranted Soviet intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

State Department officials estimate that in addition to the 6,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, there are 3,500 Soviet advisers in Kabul and a further 50,000 troops on the frontier.

British condemnation: The British Government yesterday condemned Russia's military intervention in Afghanistan. A Foreign Office statement said the Government believed "that the people of Afghanistan have the right to choose their own government without outside interference".

Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, said that Britain must now strengthen her defence.

"Soviet expansionism is now a major threat to Western survival. Britain must wake up to the dangers. Moscow simply exploits détente to her own advantage. We should resolve in the new year to call a halt to hypocrisy and to strengthen our defences", he said in a statement.

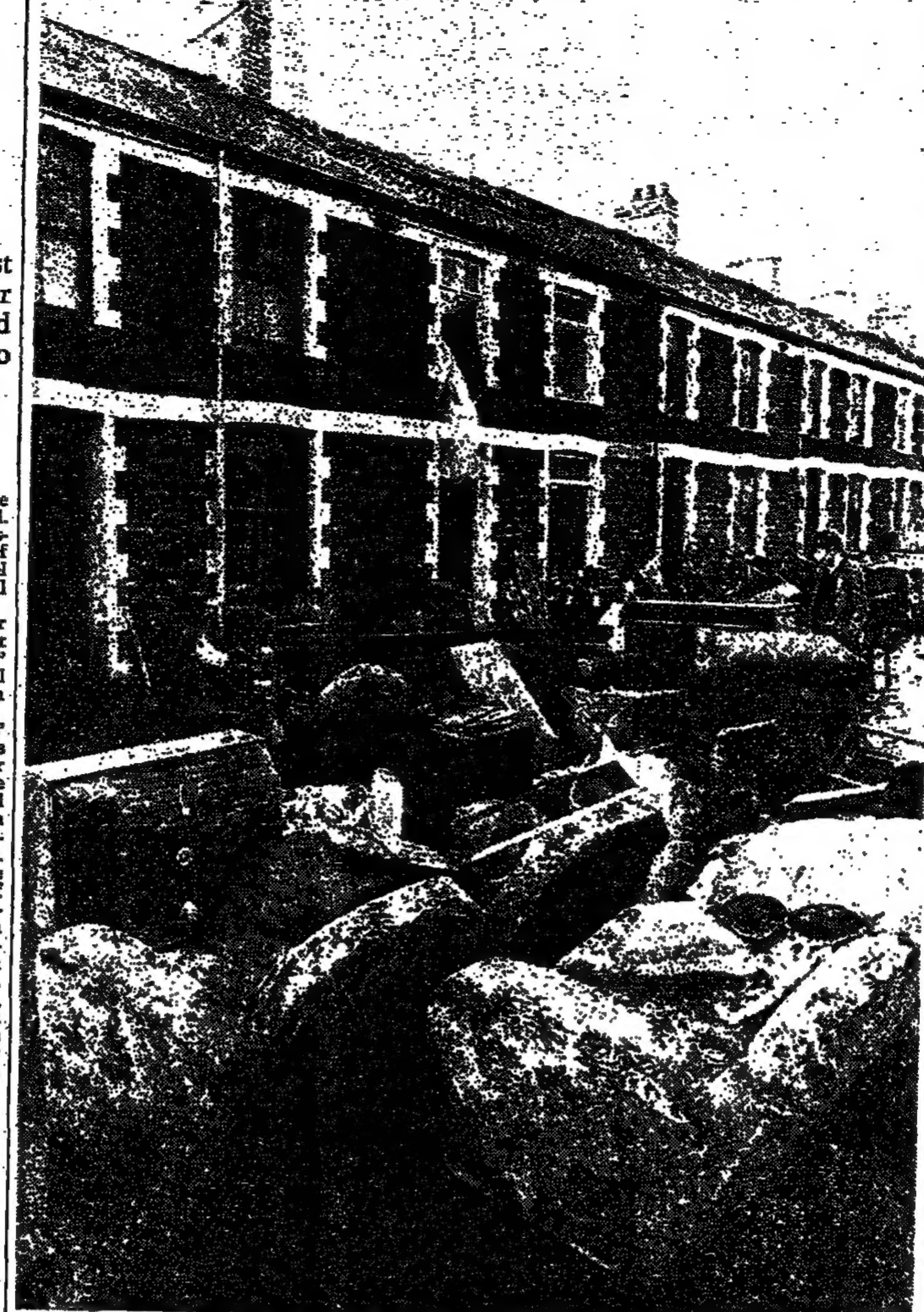
Mr Sandelson said he knew that many of his Labour colleagues would agree with him. "But others should open their eyes to the realities of naked Russian aggression".

This was a reference to the visit to Kabul by three left-wing Labour MPs, Mr Russell Kerr (Feltham), Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle) and Mr Dennis Canavan (Stirlingshire, West) to "ascertain the degree to which various reforms have been carried out". The MPs left on Thursday.

Chinese fears: China implicitly expressed fears that the coup in Afghanistan was staged at the instigation of the Soviet Union.

In its first report on events in Kabul, the official New China news agency pointed out that the Soviet news agency Tass had been "unusually quick" in reporting the coup. Moreover, the coup had been "practically synchronized" with the widely reported Christmas airlift of more than 200 flights of Soviet troops and field equipment to Kabul.—Agence France-Presse.

Russians patrol Kabul, page 4



Furniture saved from flooded homes fills the streets of Trehafod, Rhondda Valley.

State cash to help flood areas

The Government yesterday promised cash help to regions worst affected by the floods and storms of Thursday night.

Mr Marcus Fox, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, announced that local councils would get 75 per cent of their spending above the product of a penny rate to repair damage to roads, bridges and homes.

The announcement came as Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, went on a tour of South Wales towns particularly badly affected.

Up to 2,000 people are thought to have been evacuated from their homes in South Wales. More than half of them were taken to emergency centres.

Mr Edwards visited Merthyr Tydfil, where residents demanded cash aid to help to repair their homes, to Trehafod and Cardiff, where several suburbs were still badly affected by flood water.

Across Britain, a big mopping-up operation began as the flood waters ebbed slowly away, leaving nine people dead and hundreds of homes wrecked.

In Wales, besides the towns of the industrial south, the central regions of the country were badly affected. Brecon in particular suffered, with more than 500 homes and business premises inundated with muddy brown water. Last night tankers were providing the town with fresh water supplies.

Near Brecon one farmer lost his flock of 400 sheep as he was attempting to move them to higher ground. Farmers throughout Wales reported that their livestock had been swept away by streams swollen into rivers.

In Cardiff, the National Sports Centre suffered damage estimated at £750,000. Council officials place a "conservative" estimate of £1m on destruction to homes.

Last night one of the main roads out of the city was still blocked. Dozens of shops had their windows smashed

Emergency services were fully stretched at Newton Abbot in South Devon and Bideford in North Devon. People were moved from their homes after flood water up to 5ft deep swept through both towns.

Several main roads were still closed in the South-west last night. The Wessex Water Authority said that 4in of rain had fallen in 24 hours at Yeovil.

In Surrey, a labrador dog with a rope tied to his collar swam through a rising river to rescue two marooned families. The families, including two children, who were on holiday, were trapped on board a boat perched on top of a weir.

The 56ft boat, Rapid, was swept on to the weir as it tried to navigate the swollen River Wey near Guildford.

The four-year-old dog, Brutus, was brought from a boathouse near by after one of the holidaymakers clambered across the weir, struggled to the bank and raised the alarm.

Forecast, page 2

Crewmen risk lives to tow blazing gas tanker out to sea

From Our Correspondent
Exeter

A Cypriot freighter crew risked their lives to tow a burning gas tanker out to sea off the South Devon coast yesterday.

The 11,000 tonne Spanish tanker, Butaseis, developed an engine room fire a mile off the fishing port of Brixham.

"If it went up it would shower Brixham with debris and cause untold damage", an RAF rescue spokesman said. "It's a potential time bomb."

Torbay lifeboat took 17 crewmen and a woman to safety as the blaze raged out of control.

Two other crew stayed on board to steer the stricken tanker when she was taken in tow by the Cypriot freighter, Daneb.

The Navy tug Typhoon last night had the tanker hove to still attached to a tow line four miles north-east of Berry Head. The frigate HMS Anglesey and Daneb, were standing by.

A naval spokesman said the plan was to let the fire burn itself out; if the ship was still afloat this morning a decision would be taken whether to board her.

Helicopters from RAF Culdrose airlifted fire-fighting equipment and a firefighting team from HMS Anglesey on to the blazing ship, carrying 750 tonnes of liquid petroleum gas.

The team, including Mr Joe Evans, the Admiralty's Chief Salvage Officer, were soon forced to abandon ship with the two crewmen, who had stayed on board.

The fire crew activated an inert-gas fire-fighting system before abandoning ship.

"The Typhoon is trying to keep the ship into the wind to keep the flames to the aft", a Plymouth naval officer said.

"We can do nothing more than sit it out. If the fire burns itself out during the night we can get back on board."

The Typhoon then secured a line to the tanker to tow her to a safe position in mid-channel.

A spokesman at the RAF Mountbatten Search and Rescue Coordination Centre said: "The main thing is to get her into a safe position so if there is an explosion there will be no damage to other shipping or property on shore."

The Civil Aviation Authority closed the lower levels of Airway Amber 25, which passes over the tanker's position, because of the danger of an explosion.

All aircraft were banned from flying below 20,000 feet in the area and naval aircraft kept a minimum distance of a mile from the tanker which was venting gas.

Rhodesia polling dates set for February

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec 28

The dates for the Rhodesian general election were announced today by Lord Soames, the Governor.

It will be in two parts. The election for the 20 white seats in the House of Assembly will be on February 14 while that for the 80 black seats will be spread over three days from February 27.

The election will be organized in much the same way as the first majority rule poll held by the Rhodesian Government of National Unity in April but with a few changes.

One of the new provisions is that all used ballot papers will be sent to Britain after the election and will be destroyed six months later unless required for any election petition.

They will be produced only on an order by the General Division of the High Court for this purpose. Sir John Boynton, the British election commissioner, said this new provision was designed to increase confidence in the secrecy of the ballot.

Removing the papers from Rhodesia should encourage people to vote for the party of their choice without fear that the papers would be examined for an analysis of votes.

Mr Nicholas Fenn, spokesman for Lord Soames, said tonight that although the Governor had complete discretion regarding the timing of the election and could in theory change the announced date, it was his firm intention to keep the dates given and would make changes only "with profound reluctance".

Sir John said that there would be the same method of preventing a double vote as that used in the April election, when each voter's hand was stamped in indelible ink. He added that he had not yet considered giving daily voting figures during the elections for the black seats as had been the case in April.

Every effort would be made to see that all citizens of Rhodesia had the opportunity to vote including those eligible from more than 200,000 refugees at present outside the country. A conference is to be held in London next month between the British Government and the International Red Cross to devise the best means of repatriating the refugees.

All parties contesting the 80 common roll seats have to be registered with the Attorney General by December 31. Nomination day for these candidates is January 21 and the nomination court will sit for both black and white seats on January 24.

About two million people voted in April but it is believed that about a million voters ignored that poll, possibly because of intimidation or because the Patriotic Front was not represented.

The number of seats for the electoral districts was also announced, seats being allocated on the current population estimates. In Mashonaland West there is an increase of two to a total of eight seats and in Matabeleland North the number remains at 10.

Thet largest area is Mashonaland East, which includes

Continued on page 4, col 1

Talks fail on new steel pay offer

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Eleventh-hour talks aimed at averting the strike by 100,000 employees of the British Steel Corporation broke down last night. The strike is due to begin from Wednesday next week.

Earlier Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades, the minority union in the talks, put amended proposals to the union negotiating team of 90.

An improved offer followed the corporation's offer, rejected by the unions last week, of national increases of 2 per cent across the board and a further 3 per cent in return for the abolition of the industry's guaranteed working week.

It was understood that a proposal to increase the 3 per cent component of the offer to 4 per cent with some conditions still attached was not accepted

Union leaders entered yesterday's negotiations expecting a significant improvement in the money available without conditions.

Mr Sirs said as he arrived: "I expect that the corporation has come to realize the seriousness of the position and that it does not want to stop the industry".

The talks between Mr Sirs, Mr Smith and Mr Robert Scholey, BSC's chief executive, started in mid-morning (the Press Association reports). The result of their preliminary negotiations was relayed to the members of the unions' full negotiating committees after five hours.

,000 fines unfit ships

are to be given powers from o impose fines up to £50,000 the five offences under the ipping Act, 1979. One of the fitness to go to sea without er to life, is important in the t accident and pollution Page 3

n for pig disease

e, which the Government said d been eradicated, has cost m this year in efforts to con- money was spent on compen- rs for statutory slaughter of Page 3

s fight train ban

outh-east England are prepar- a ban by British Rail on London commuter trains, as of Transport statistics show is continuing to increase in Page 3

out ruling

alifornia becomes a little more after a court ruling which Lieutenant Governor to make in the Governor's absence. e Governor, on his return, ose appointments Page 4

Congressman starts inquiry into Shah

A United States Congressman visiting Iran on a self-appointed mercy mission to help the hostages said he was collecting evidence for a Congressional hearing on the alleged crimes of the Shah. The Soviet Ambassador in Tehran met Ayatollah Khomeini in the holy city of Qom Page 4

Turkey wants $1,000m

Turkey has asked Saudi Arabia for a loan of up to $1,000m (£500m). Without the money, it says, the Government in Ankara will fall and there could be a takeover by extremists Page 4

Transport: Car travel has risen by 50 per cent in the past decade and now represents 81 per cent of all travel 2

BL price rises: Selective increases averaging 4 per cent have been announced for British Leyland cars, with the biggest rises on small models 2

12p letter: The Government has rejected a call to revise the Post Office's financial targets to avert price rises in February 2

Gibraltar: Chance of reopening Spain's frontier with the British colony fades 3

Tokyo: Japanese urged to work less and rest more 4

French MPs pass Bill on taxes

Both Houses of the French Parliament have passed in record time a Bill enabling the Government to collect taxes and make payments after the new year deadline. They refused, however, to be stampeded into a quick vote of the 1980 Finance Bill and resumed their holidays Page 3

Further price increases by petrol companies with warning of more to come

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

BP, Mobil and Texaco raised the price of petrol by up to 4p a gallon of four-star from midnight last night as three members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) announced increases in the cost of their crude oil from January 1.

In the past two days suppliers of 60 per cent of the petrol sold in Britain have raised their prices; Esso put 4p on a gallon of four-star on Thursday and Shell, which has a further 20 per cent of the market, increased its prices by 2p a gallon at the end of November.

All companies have emphasized that more rises are inevitable as individual Opec members increase costs after the breakdown of attempts to bring back a unified structure to oil pricing in Caracas last week. The eventual rise may be as much as 8p a gallon on four-star.

There were reports late last night that Libya, a leading pricing "hawk", was to increase its prices for 1980 by another $4.50 above the record $30 it set for its crude at Caracas.

Yesterday Venezuela and Iraq, now the second largest Opec exporter, joined the prices free-for-all by raising the cost of their crude exports to about $26 a barrel, once again isolating moderate Saudi Arabia as the cheapest source of Middle East crude at $24 a barrel. Indonesia increased its prices to an average of $28. It is the second rise Indonesia and Venezuela have announced within the last fortnight.

Kuwait, a supplier of 40 per cent of Shell United Kingdom's requirements, remains the last of the large Opec exporters to announce prices for 1980, but it is expected to join the emerging middle range confirmed by Iraq and Venezuela at about $26 a barrel.

BP has increased its wholesale price of four-star by only 1.8p which is expected to translate to 2p at retail pumps. Texaco has raised its wholesale prices by 1.9p for all grades but has said that this rise accounts for only part of the 33 per cent increase in the cost of Saudi Arabian crude from $18 to $24 a barrel; this meets more than half of Texaco's British requirements.

Continued on page 17, col 4

Government refuses to stop 12p letter rate

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

The Government has rejected a call to revise its financial targets for the Post Office in *order to avert postal increases* due in February. Replying to proposals by the Post Office Users' National Council (POUNC), Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry, regretted the necessity for increases but accepted that the chairman of the Post Office, Sir William Barlow, had to take whatever steps were required to meet its financial targets.

The increases have been made necessary primarily by this year's wage settlements with Post Office employees, Mr Butler said. "If wage increases are not paid for through increased productivity, they must inevitably result in reduced services or lead to *increased tariffs* unless they are financed by the taxpayer. The Government is not prepared to accept the last course."

The decision enables the Post Office to raise the first and second class letter rates by 2p to 12p and 10p respectively from February. POUNC wanted part of the increase to be held back until perceptible productivity improvements were made and the result of next year's *wage settlement* was known.

The Post Office accepts that the increases will bring a fall in postal traffic. Its confidential internal forecasts are that the number of letters posted annually will fall by 6 per cent to less than 8,600 million during the next five years. The *medium-term plan originally* forecast that letter traffic would remain roughly stable at about 9,100 million items until 1983-84, when it was expected to fall to about *8,800 million*.

A further revision downwards is expected next year since traffic assumptions are based on an inflation rate of only 15 per cent in the current financial year and 13 per cent in 1980-81.

It seems unlikely that the Post Office can avert a price rise in the next financial year since only 11 per cent has been allowed for wage increases. The *postal service is heavily labour* intensive, with wages accounting for more than three quarters of total costs.

The Post Office last month launched a two-year plan to increase productivity and improve reliability. But it says that will not produce enough money in a year to meet the increased costs arising from the last pay settlement.

Without February's increases, it estimates that the postal business stands to lose £35m this financial year and £212m in the twelve months to March 31, 1981.

Children 'worse off' at end of Year of the Child

The International Year of the Child in Britain had been a "scandalous failure". Mr Brian Jackson, director of the National Educational Research and Development Trust, said yesterday.

He said much of the blame on the Labour and Conservative *Governments whom he* criticized for their "anti-child" attitudes.

"No comparable country has a worse record than Britain", Mr Jackson said in a report to the National Children's Centre, which is linked with the trust. "The sad evidence is that children in Britain are worse off at the end of this much-acclaimed year than they were when it began.

"*Many voluntary groups* have tried their damnedest, but all our efforts have been wiped out by the indifferent or anti-child attitude of both the Labour and Conservative Governments.

Mr Jackson added: "In Britain we looked at the prob*lems of children and plastered* them over with a party and a bunch of pamphlets."

The year was ending with cuts in school meals and transport and the nursery school programme in ruins.

Nothing had been done to help child minders and work*ing parents and none of the* urgent recommendations of the Court report on child health or the Finer report on single parent families had found Parliamentary action and time.

Mr Jackson called for the appointment of a *minister* for children.

Car travel rose 50% during past decade

By Our Transport Correspondent

Britons travel 25 per cent more than a decade ago and spend four times as much on *domestic travel.*

Ca rtravel rose by 50 per cent, and from 74 per cent to 81 per cent of total travel during 1968-78, while bus and coach travel fell from 15 per cent to 11 per cent, and rail travel from 9 to 7 per cent. Cycling stayed at 1 per cent and air travel at 0.5 per cent, according to the Government's latest national transport statistics.

Spending on motoring rose from £3,000m in 1968 to £12,800m last year, of which £5,600m was on car purchase, £3,500m on petrol, and £2,300m *on repairs and maintenance.*

Total transport spending by users rose from £7,400m to £26,300m representing a household average of £10.90 (13.6 per cent of the family budget) in 1978 compared with £3.27 (13.1 per cent, in 1968. This included an average of £3.98 on car buying, £4.68 on car running, 52p on rail fares, and 88p on bus and coach fares.

The proportion of freight transport moving by *road fell* from 85 to 83 per cent in the decade, and that by rail from 11 to 10 per cent, while pipeline *traffic rose from 1.6 to 4.5 per* cent, and coastal shipping from 2.6 to 3 per cent. The tonnage of road freight fell by 12 per cent, but tonne-milage rose by 25 per cent because of a steady rise in the length of haul.

Energy used for transport in*creased by 33 per cent in the* decade, during which total energy use rose by only 5 per cent. By last year transport accounted for 23 per cent of the country's total energy consumption.

The car population, which had been 900,000 in 1928, 1,990,000 in 1938, 2,002,000 in 1948, and 4,650,000 in 1958, rose from 11,078,000 in 1968 to 14,417,000 last year. The motor-cycle population, which halved from 1,842,000 in 1961 to 993,000 in 1972, had risen again to 1,211,000 last year.

Transport Statistics Great Britain 1968-1978. (Stationery Office £7.)

BR commuter lines get new de-icing trains

By Our Transport Correspondent

Southern Region's 400,000 commuters stand a better chance this winter of getting to *work in bad weather than for* many years.

British Rail Southern Region, whose third-rail electric trains are most vulnerable to winter conditions because of ice on the conductor rail which interrupts power supply, is introducing measures both to combat *wintry condiitons and to keep* passengers informed.

Six new de-icing trains, which spray a special oil on the conductor rails to free ice have been brought into service since last winter. They will run over the system every night between January and March and not just on those nights before the day snow and ice have been forecast.

Last winter was the worst for 30 years with only 250 of the region's 5,000 commuter trains running on January 24, the worst day of the winter. *But this winter, Mr John* Palette, Southern's general manager, says in a leaflet to be distributed to all passengers, "we are better equipped to face the rigours of winter than ever before".

To keep travellers better informed on train running and cancellations, the press office at Waterloo will be on 24-hour manning and regular up-to-the-minute bulletins will be broadcast on local radio stations.

Besides the fleet of 16 de-icing trains, a further £500,000, equal to expenditure over the past four years, is to be spent on heating points at key junctions to stop them being immobilized by ice.

BL puts up prices of its best-selling small cars

By Clifford Webb

BL yesterday announced a *number of selective price in*creases for its cars, putting the biggest rises on its best-selling small cars and excluding entirely some of the large saloons with heavy petrol consumption.

The prices of Rover saloons, Range Rovers, and the 12-cylinder Jaguar XJS are unchanged. Demand for all large cars has fallen sharply throughout Europe because of the latest petrol price increases and *is not expected to recover next* year.

The new prices, which become effective on ex-factory *supplies from Monday, average* 4 per cent. The Mini City 850, at the bottom of the range, goes up by 3.95 per cent, from £2,404 to £2,499. while the Allegro 1300 two-door, which is enjoying a belated boost in sales because of its economy and competitive pricing, goes *up by 4.3 per cent, to £3,346.*

BL's family saloon, the Marina 1700 four-door, increases by only 2.5 per cent, to £3,851; that that is a reflection of its losing fight against more modern rivals from Ford, Vauxhall and several of the *importers.*

The timing of the announcement is surprising. It had been widely forecast for later next month. However, by bringing it forward the hard-pressed company has given its dealers welcome assistance in the effort to reduce showroom stocks at a time of record interest rates.

Dealers will be able to advertise those stocks at pre-*increase prices, and with the* substantial discounts being offered, it should make BL cars much more competitive.

The announcement also serves to avoid a clash with the "buy British" advertising campaign being launched by BL early next year, which is estimated to be costing £2m.

Staff at the Tesco supermarket in Cardiff mopping up yesterday after the night of storms.

£30m oil income sets problem for Orkney

From Our Own Correspondent
Kirkwall

The Orkney Islands Council is debating whether it should employ an expert to advise it on how best to spend £30m.

The money comes mainly *from the oil industry on the* island of Flotta, in Scapa Flow, which pays about £700,000 a year into a council reserve fund designed to ease the long-term effects of oil on the island way of life. Orkney has a population of 18,000.

Some councillors believe an economist is needed to help steer Orkney through its diffi*cult oil era. Others fear that the* right calibre of man would command such a high salary, together with his own department, that he would become uneconomical.

The council's policy and resources committee, voted narrowly to support the principle of appointing a full-time man and the council drew up a list of the jobs he might tackle. The inventory included several tasks which were only marginally oil-related but have become celebrated causes in Orkney's argument with the mainland.

The economist *could* improve the Orkney case for having a Road Equivalent Tariff—that is, to have seaways considered as motorways. He could also look at air services, shipping services local bus services and school transport. He could assess applications made to the reserve fund, examine the potential of new industry, evaluate existing industries and provide guidelines for their future.

Other jobs might include monitoring the Orkney Structure Plan, countryside and conservation projects and preparing economic reports on specific island communities to show where the maximum effort should be made to ensure prosperity.

The list leaves a picture in the minds of Orkney councillors of either a corporation wizard, or a classic example of *Parkinson's Law taking hold* and requiring an oil-supported reserve fund to keep it going.

Professor Ronald Miller, of *Stromness*, agreed that Orkney had a lot to worry about, but said that he doubted that one man alone could cope with the problems. He suggested that the universities offered a reservoir of expertise which could be tapped when required.

Mr Alastair Scholes, chairman of the standing sub-committee dealing with applications to the reserve fund, was certain that an economist was required. Over the next 30 years, he said, the fund would have about £30m to deal with and there was no one at present who could advise how it might be used to the best benefit of the community.

The council is waiting to learn how much money it has *lost* in the collapse of a local boat-building company in which it had invested, and about which a skilled economist might have been able to advise.

Mr Graeme Lapsley, chief executive of the council, said an economist would undoubtedly help in making correct decisions. "He would not be expected to do the whole lot himself but to work with council officials to the overall good of Orkney."

Battle lines drawn for Corrie abortion Bill

By a Staff Reporter

One of the most controversial Bills waiting to come before Parliament next term is the *Abortion (Amendment)* Bill, 1979. Its supporters hope it will be considered by the House of Commons on February 8.

Although the wording has been heavily amended in the committee stage, which ended last week, the three main changes that the original Bill proposed to make to the present law remain substantially the same.

*The Bill, which was intro*duced as a private members' Bill by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for North Ayrshire and Bute, will change the existing criteria for abortion, bring down the maximum time limit for abortion from 28 weeks to 20 weeks, and sub*stantially* alter the services which the abortion charities may provide.

The opponents of the Bill are less concerned about the reduction in the upper time limit than about the other two changes. The number of abortions performed after 20 weeks have made up only about 1 per cent of the total each year since 1971.

Mrs Madeleine Simms, chair*man of the Coordinating Com*mittee in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act, said yesterday that the effect of the Bill would be to medicalize abortion again. The 1967 Act had allowed ordinary women to obtain abortions for medico-social reasons and that would be reversed by Mr Corrie's Bill.

Middle class women had always been able to obtain abortions for such reasons; but the 1967 Act had opened up such possibilities to working class women as well, she said. The committee, which includes among its members Tories for Free Choice, thinks the Bill will lead to a substantial increase in back-street abortions.

The wording of Mr Corrie's Bill on the criteria for abortion has been changed in committee by amendments from Mr William Benyon, Conservative MP for Buckingham.

Under the 1967 Act, an abortion can be carried out if the risk to the mother's health of continuing the *pregnancy* is *greater than that of* having an abortion. Mr Benyon amended that in committee to say that an abortion was allowable only when the risk of continuing the pregnancy was "substantially" greater than having an abortion.

Mr Benyon explained yesterday that because of the statistical argument that having a baby always involved a greater risk than having an abortion, the existing clause had been used to give women abortion on demand, which had not been the intention of the Act.

He agreed with the opponents of the Bill in thinking that the change in criteria was more important than the reduction in the upper time limit. He thought that the time limit might be changed by amendments on the floor of the House of Commons, in any case, to 22 or even 24 weeks.

The third change that the Bill proposes is to forbid any charity to own and control both a pregnancy advisory centre and a nursing home. No referral agency shall have a financial interest in an abortion clinic, it states. The Bill's opponents are particularly concerned about *this clause.*

Coat of arms awarded to Scottish dog club

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

A Scottish dog club has successfully petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms for Letters *Patent* and Ensigns *Armorial*. In the first award of its kind arms have been granted to the South of Scotland German Shepherd Dog and All Breeds Training Club.

Future events organized by the club will be ennobled by a display of azure arms with an alsatian in show stance proper between two gold bars in saltire argent. Beneath the arms runs the motto "First Breed and Obedience, Second to None".

The arms will be added to the thousands of Scottish armorial bearings guarded and maintained with a strict eye by the Lord Lyon although the entry of a dog club into such august company might seem a little incongruous.

A glance through the arms of the ancient territories of Scottish clans or considerable families shows barely a hair of a dog among them. There are stags, eagles, bulls, wolves, wild boar and lyons galore. The Lyle, Lord Lyle, has a cockerel in perplexed pose.

Both The Mackintosh and Cluny Macpherson include extremely vicious-looking cats encircled by the caveat "touch not the cat but a 'glove'" and Maxtone of Cultoquhey has an insect with wings rampant. The Arms of Hunter of Hunterston show a helmet on which sits a hound with a crown-like collar, but the canine world seems otherwise poorly represented.

The Lord Lyon approached the Kennel Club as the most senior dog body in Britain to inquire whether they had *arms* which it would be appropriate to echo in the Scottish club's bearings. The Kennel Club was unable to trace the antecedents of its own emblem, two dogs in begging posture holding up a device like a millstone encircling the initials KC.

A rather formal "coat of arms" existed in the early part of the century which had incorporated an Irish Harp. It was replaced by the present emblem.

Miss Eileen Bonthron, secretary of the Scottish club explained: "We decided that although we were not the oldest show in Scotland we reckoned we were the foremost with dual championship status in breeding and obedience. We are very proud of ourselves and that is why we petitioned the Lord Lyon."

Telephone charge rise postponed

Telephone coin-box charges that were due to go up in the new year will not be increased for up to three weeks.

Post Office engineers expect to take that long to convert Britain's 360,000 payphones from 2p to 5p minimum charge. Work starts next week.

Correction

In yesterday's motoring column, the price of the *Mini in 1970* was wrongly given as £169. This should have read £619. And the share of the British car market taken by importers in 1979 is about 55 per cent, not 5 per cent as stated.

GPs disappointed by £400 expenses award

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Family doctors are *to get £400 a year added to their* average practice expenses of £5,000, the Government announced yesterday.

The British Medical Association had claimed an extra £700 a year. Dr Elston Grey-Turner, secretary of the association, *said the award, made by the* doctors' and dentists' review body, was disappointing. Unless general practitioners were able to find the balance from their own resources the service they offer could suffer, he said. The claim was made because of increased costs of motoring, staff salaries and VAT.

In making the award the review body said that it first took into account a recently discovered error in the computer processing of the 1978 Inland Revenue inquiry into GPs' earnings and expenses and secondly, increased costs.

Sir Hugh Fraser buys Iona for the nation

By Ian Bradley

The island of Iona has been bought by the National Trust for Scotland with money made available by Sir Hugh Fraser.

The island, where St Columba landed from Ireland in AD 563 *to create the "cradle of Scottish Christianity"*, formally became the trust's property early yesterday.

Iona was put on the market in May by the 10th Duke of Argyll. The Argyll family has owned the island since 1695 but the present *Duke* was forced to sell to meet death duties.

After an offer of £600,000 by the National Trust for Scotland had been rejected by the trustees of the Argyll estates, Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the House of Fraser group of department stores, offered £1.5m to save the island for the nation as a memorial to his father. Lord Allander.

Sir Hugh's gift covers the purchase price of the island, and an endowment for its maintenance. The abbey and other *historic* buildings and sites on Iona were not included in yesterday's sale as they are permanently in the care of the Iona Cathedral Trustees, a body created by a previous Duke of Argyll in 1899.

The part of the island taken over by the National Trust for Scotland comprises 1,897 acres, with two farms, 15 crofts and common grazing land. The *population of the island* is about 80.

The purchase of Iona by the trust has been welcomed by *Mr George Younger, Secretary* of State for Scotland, and the trustees of the 10th Duke of Argyll. A trust official said that it would be sending a delegation early in the new year to discuss Iona's future with the island's community council.

Two policemen cleared of blame for man's death

From Our Correspondent
Bradford

Police officers who arrested a man who died in custody were exonerated at an inquest in Bradford yesterday from blame for his death. Mr Juozas Staniskis, aged 58, was stated to have shown sign of being drunk, but tests showed no alcohol.

Recording a verdict that Mr Stanikis, of Cornwall Place, *Bradford, died of natural* causes, Mr James Turnbull, the coroner, said Mr Staniskis was refused hospital treatment and the two police officers, two ambulance men and a hospital porter could be forgiven for thinking there was nothing wrong with him.

*Dr Ivan Horsfield, a patho*logist, said some medical conditions could simulate drunkenness and Mr Stanikis's behaviour before he was arrested indicated that he was suffering from a lack of oxygen to his brain.

Sgt Ivan Carroll said that Mr Staniskis, who was refusing to have an ambulance, was told by him and Constable David Sherwood to go home, but was arrested after trying to get into a car. While on their way to the police station it became apparent that Mr Staniskis was ill and he was dead when they got back to the hospital.

Hain memorandum issued on sport in South Africa

By John Hennessy

Mr Peter Hain, on behalf of Stop All Racist Tours (SART), has responded to an advertisement, placed in *The Observer* by the *Sports Council, by issu*ing a long memorandum on the subject of sport in South Africa.

It is designed to bring home to *members of the council the* exact position of sport in the republic, as seen by Mr Hain, and to establish conditions which "have to be fully satisfied if South Africa is to be considered for readmission to world sport".

Mr Hain describes his initiative as a "kind of pre-emptive strike". He said yesterday that he did not fear the truth being known about sport in South Africa, rather that the forthcoming visit of a commission of the Sports Council to South Africa might be fobbed off with half-truths.

He is concerned to see "that the right questions are asked of the right people in the right places. After all, the administration of sport in South Africa *is still dominated by the same* people who allowed matters to reach the pass leading up to the D'Oliveira affair".

Mr Hain, in his memorandum, acknowledges that there have been changes in the last decade "which by South African standards are significant . . . but by world standards superficial". They have, furthermore, been brought about by world isolation.

The conditions sought by SART include a public commitment by the South African Government to a fully in*tegrated non-racial sports sys*tem; exemption of all aspects of sport from the apartheid laws; an Act of Parliament forbidding racially exclusive rules of membership of sports clubs; universal access to all sports grounds; integration of sport on a non-racial basis within the educational system, government support for black sport to raise its standards and an end to police harassment of non-racial officials and players.

Speelman takes revenge in Hastings chess

From Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent
Hastings

One of the strongest Hastings premier tournaments of recent years was opened yesterday by Patrick Moore, the astronomer, whose varied interests in *ascending order of importance* include politics, music and chess.

Owing to the late arrival of some of the competitors, two games were postponed. They were those between the Russians, Makarichev and Georgadze and between the Yugoslav Rajcevic and the American grandmaster Bisguier.

A quick result came in the game between the youngest competitor Nigel Short, aged 14, and the former British champion, Jonathan Speelman. Speelman took ample revenge for his defeat at Short's hands in the British championship at Chester by crushing his opponent *in 22 moves*. Short clearly has a lot to learn about the Nimzoindian defence.

All the other games were adjourned. Mestel had a win position in the ending against Liberzon but Michael Stean, after exerting strong pressure against Lein, blundered and will have some difficulty in saving the ending.

Seirawan, the junior world champion, had a hard fight with the Swedish grandmaster, Ulf Andersson. They looked level for some time until Seirawan got into time trouble. Andersson should win the ending. Though Nunn has a material advantage against the American grandmaster Christiansen, his own king is so exposed to attack that a draw looks very likely, and the game between Zilber and Bellin also looks drawn.

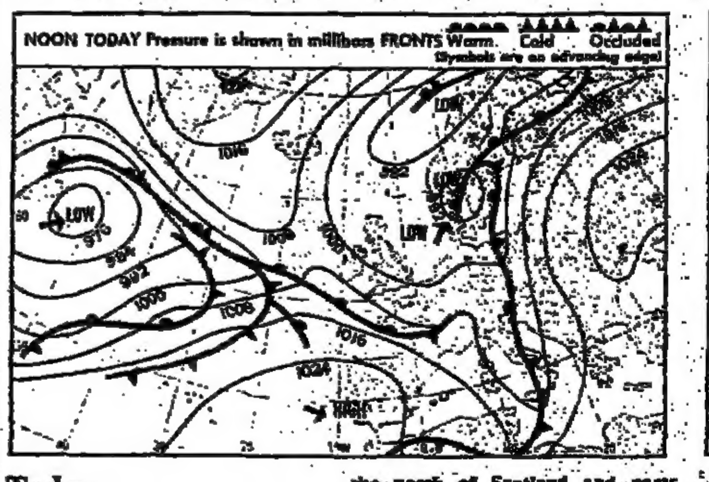
Results of round one: Speelman 1, Short 0, QP Nimzoindian defence, 22 moves. Zilber adjourned against Bellin, QP [illegible] Indian defence, 42. Mestel adjourned against Liberzon, Sicilian defence, [illegible]. Lein adjourned against Stean, QGD half-Slav defence, [illegible]; Christiansen adjourned against Nunn, QP Nimzo-Indian defence [illegible]; Seirawan adjourned against Andersson, QGD half-Slav defence, 40.

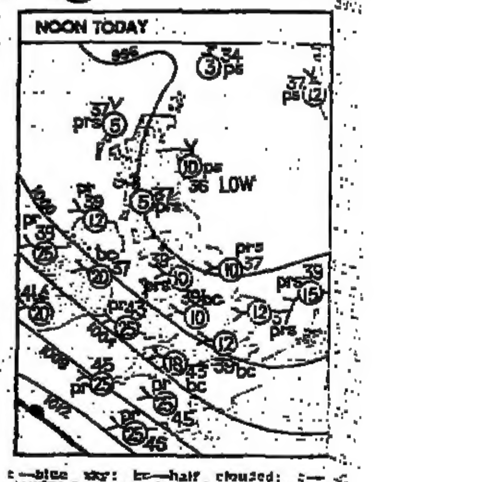
Assessing the risks of nuclear power

Britain has decided to place *an order for a new nuclear* power station. Basically it will be to the same design as the one that went badly *wrong at Three Mile Island*, Pennsylvania, last March. It will probably be the first of many in Britain.

How dangerous will they be? Is a nuclear plant at the bottom of your garden more of a risk than, say, your next car ride or cigarette? One way of trying to answer such questions is through the new science of risk assessment. Bryan Silcock, science correspondent, reports in tomorrow's *Sunday Times*.

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 8.6 am Sun sets: 3.59 pm
Moon sets: 3.25 am Moon rises: 1.42 pm
Full moon: January 2.
Lighting up: 4.29 pm to 7.36 am.
High water: London Bridge, 10.0 am, 6.5m (21.3ft); 10.45 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft). Avonmouth, 3.16 am; 10.9m (35.8ft); 3.56 pm, 11.5m (37.6ft). Dover, 7.4 am, 5.9m (19.4ft); 7.49 pm, 5.9m (19.2ft). Hull, 2.2 am, 6.5m (21.5ft); 2.56 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft). Liverpool, 7.42 am, 8.1m (26.7ft); 8.7 pm, 8.4m (27.6ft).

The measurement of high water in *The Times* weather forecast and recordings will be given in metres only next year following the Admiralty Tide Tables from which they are extracted. The work of converting Admiralty charts to metres for the waters around Britain, including harbours and *approaches, is almost complete* although charts for certain areas in the north of Scotland and parts of Ireland have yet to be completed. Admiralty Tide Tables with predicted heights given in metres were first published in 1972. Heights were given additionally in feet until coverage with metric charts was adequate. The conversion factor is one foot=0.3048 metres, and one metre=3.28084ft.

Tomorrow

Sun rises: 8.6 am Sun sets: 4.0 pm
Moon sets: 4.37 am Moon rises: 2.12 pm
Full moon: January 2.
Lighting up: 4.30 pm to 7.36 am.
High water: London Bridge, 11.13 am, 6.6m (21.6ft); 11.53 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft). Avonmouth, 4.25 am, 11.4m (37.5ft); 4.59 pm, 12.0m (39.2ft). Dover, 8.11 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 8.15 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft). Hull, 3.12 am, 6.7m (21.9ft); 3.55 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft). Liverpool, 8.45 am, 8.5m (27.7ft); 9.8 pm, 8.7m (28.4ft).

A shallow low will move SE into the North Sea.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, Midlands, Lake District, NW, SE, central S and central N England, SW Scotland: Bright or sunny intervals and wintry showers gradually dying out; wind W moderate; max temp 4° or 5°C (39° to 41°F).

East Anglia, Borders, E and NE England: Bright intervals, sleet or snow showers, some heavy with hail and thunder continuing into the evening near coasts; wind W or NW moderate; max temp 4°C (39°F).

SW England, N and S Wales, Argyll, N Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man: Scattered wintry showers, sunny intervals; wind W fresh or strong; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee: Sunny intervals, wintry showers, more especially at first; wind NW, moderate; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Moray Firth, Aberdeen, central Highlands, NE and NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright intervals, sleet or snow showers, prolonged at times, heavy with hail and thunder possible; wind N or NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 3° or 4°C (37° to 39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Continuing rather cold, sunny intervals and wintry showers, chiefly in the N and E, overnight frost.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SW, veering NW, fresh to strong; sea rough.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW fresh to strong, perhaps gale at times; sea rough or very rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 5°C (41°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 72 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.03 in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.3 hr. *Bar, mean sea level*, 6 pm, 1007.2 millibars, steady.
1,000 millibars=29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; m, mist; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akureyri	s	13	55	Cologne	c	8	46	L Palmas	[illegible]	19	66	Oslo	m	2	36
Algiers	s	16	61	Copenhagen	r	3	37	Lisbon	f	17	63	Paris	c	3	37
Amsterdam	r	5	41	Dublin	[illegible]	4	39	London	f	6	43	Reykjavik	s	−7	19
Athens	c	10	50	Edinburgh	[illegible]	4	39	Luxembourg	r	3	37	Rome	r	10	50
Barcelona	s	14	57	Florence	c	9	48	Madrid	c	8	46	Ronaldsway	r	6	43
Beirut	r	10	50	Funchal	[illegible]	18	64	Majorca	r	15	59	Stockholm	r	2	35
Belfast	r	3	37	Geneva	[illegible]	7	45	Malaga	f	16	61	Tel Aviv	c	14	57
Berlin	c	3	37	Gibraltar	f	17	63	Malta	s	15	59	Venice	c	4	39
Biarritz	r	8	46	Guernsey	r	8	46	Manchester	f	6	43	Vienna	sn	−1	30
Bordeaux	s	6	43	Helsinki	c	0	32	Moscow	c	−5	23	Warsaw	s	−1	30
Brussels	r	5	41	Innsbruck	r	1	34	Munich	[illegible]	0	32	Zurich	s	3	37
Budapest	c	−1	30	Istanbul	[illegible]	4	39	Naples	f	10	50				
Cardiff	s	6	43	Jersey	s	8	46	Nice	r	7	45				

Overseas selling prices
Australia $1.50; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.600; Belgium B frs 30; Canaries Pes 80; Cyprus 350 M[illegible]; Denmark Dkr 4.75; Finland Fmk 4[illegible]; France Frs 4; Germany Dm 2.50; Greece Dr 40; Holland Gl 2.25; Iran Rials 110; Iraq ID 0.430; Irish Republic 20p; Italy L 900; Jordan JD 0.375; Kuwait KD 0.600; Lebanon L[illegible] 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 25; Madeira Esc 35; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir [illegible]; Norway Kr 5.00; Oman OR 0.640; Pakistan Rps 9.00; Portugal Esc 30; Qatar QR 6.00; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $45; Spain Pes 75; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland Sfrs 2.70; Syria LS 4.50; Tunisia Din 0.35; [illegible]; Canada $1.50; UAE Dh 6.50; Yugoslavia Din 25.

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ubstandard ships ıce £50,000 nes under new Act

ichael Baily
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tain is to take tougher
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vessels will become liable
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services. They tend to be power-
ful developed countries such as
the United States, Japan and
those of Western Europe. It
also involves those countries
that produce substandard ships
which could be "convenience"
flags where identification and
punishment of such ships can be
difficult.

Owners who operate substan-
dard ships or crews with im-
punity under such flags will be
much less likely to do so if
faced with a threat of action
by developed countries on whom
in the last resort their cargoes
and livelihood depend.

Britain's own surveillance
force consists of about five
hundred marine surveyors of
the Department of Trade who
inspect ships in British ports
at random.

They are highly qualified
men, naval architects or marine
engineers and possibly ships'
masters, whose further recruit-
ment is limited only by Govern-
ment financial constraints. But
the section did escape curtail-
ment in the recent Govern-
ment expenditure cuts.

Five offences attract £50,000
fines under the Act: failing to
render assistance after a colli-
sion; proceeding from a United
Kingdom port in contravention
of a detention order; carrying
more passengers than a certifi-
cate allows; contravening traffic
lanes; and unfitness to go to
sea without serious danger to
life.

Pig disease 'eradicated' in 1976 has cost £1.75m

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has spent almost £1.75m this year on efforts to contain a pig disease which it said in 1976 had been eradicated from Britain. The money was spent on compensating farmers for the statutory slaughter of more than 37,000 pigs.

The animals had swine vesicular disease, a highly contagious condition which causes sores on the skin and feet and makes animals lame. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced the total spent yesterday when it said that two suspected cases of the disease in Lancashire had been confirmed.

Most of the 41 outbreaks this year have been in northern England, and the cause has not been traced. Animal imports are severely restricted and outbreaks of the disease in Britain are notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act 1950.

The disease was first found in Britain almost seven years ago and the transfer of pigs between farms and from farms to markets is controlled by law. This year has been the worst since 1975 for the disease, and about 250,000 infected pigs have been slaughtered since the disease appeared in this country.

The disease can be spread quickly by contact between animals, by lorries and through swill feeds.

Black inspector: Mr Ronald Hope, aged 25, became the first black inspector in the Metropolitan Police yesterday and spent his first morning at Marylebone dealing with press, radio and television interviews. Black youths, he believed, were afraid of what their friends might think if they joined the police; he hoped that his promotion would encourage them. Mr Hope was born in south London of a Guyanese father and an English mother, and joined the police in April, 1973.

:risis pushes sales to highest point since the war

'clists to fight British Rail ban

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which starts on Wed-

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Rail's ban on com-
ycles is being fought
London Cycling Cam-

paign and the Friends of the
Earth, who are encouraging
their members to write to Sir
Peter Parker, chairman of the
British Railways Board, and to
their local MP. They are also
collecting signatures for a
petition.

British Rail has had about
fifty written complaints about
the ban so far and about twenty-
five telephone calls. They say
the ban is necessary because
bicycles obstruct passengers on
platforms and can delay trains
because of the time needed to
put them in the guards' vans.

The cyclists' cause is sup-
ported in an article this week
in the *British Medical Journal*,
expounding the advantages of
the bicycle for the cylist's
health, convenience and speed.

Dr Ronald Williams, a general
practitioner in London, discuss-
ing the aerodynamics of the
bicycle, says a person on a
bicycle is the most efficient
mover known in the solar
system.

"Weight for weight, the
cyclist uses less energy to cover
a given distance than even the
superbly constructed salmon or
dolphin, not to mention birds,
the great cats, the motor car or
any form of jet or rocket
engine", he says.

"Whether he is more
economical in energy than
orbiting extraterrestrial bodies
is another matter, but whatever
other qualities these interesting
objects may have, self-steering
is certainly not one of them."

Dr Williams also points out weaknesses in the Department of Transport's statistics on the accident rate for cyclists compared with motorists. In 1977 the death rate for cyclists per 100 million kilometres covered was 6.8, compared with 0.7 for car drivers—about 10 times as much.

Dr Williams points out that the figures for cyclists include children, whereas those for motorists necessarily refer only to adults. Consequently the accident rate for adult cyclists may be far better.

He claims that the number of miles covered by cyclists is probably underestimated by the department because it chiefly monitors main roads, whereas cyclists tend to use minor roads. That would reduce the actual accident rate.

An official at the department said that although its statistics were not as accurate for bicycles as for cars because they were geared mainly to the latter, there was no reason to suppose the mileage covered was underestimated.

The popularity of cycling is likely to rise yet further in London this year because of a film about cycling, entitled *Breaking Away*, which opened on Boxing Day. It has already grossed more than $13m in the United States and is still filling cinemas there.

Letters, page 13

Police get fire death phone call

From Our Correspondent
Hull

The police in Humberside investigating the murder of three young brothers who died from burns in Hull earlier this month, said yesterday they had received a brief telephone call from a man saying: "I am sorry about Selby Street, about the burning."

The brothers, Charles Hastie, aged 15, Paul, aged 12, and Peter, aged eight, died from burns after paraffin was poured through the letter-box of their home in Selby Street, Hull, and set alight.

Det Supt Ronald Sagar, who is leading the investigation, said the call was made a few minutes after midnight on Thursday. The caller had dialled 999 and his message, punctuated by a 30-second pause, was automatically recorded.

Mr Sagar added: "I am satisfied that the killer is depressed and overcome by the horror of his actions and no doubt now has a desperate need to talk to someone."

He said there was no way of knowing if it was the same man who had telephoned to the father of the boys last weekend and in a sobbing voice had said: "I am sorry for what I have done; I killed your children."

Another senior officer said there were no plans to have the recorded message played on local radio stations to try to identify the caller. He said the remaining family of the dead boys, mother, father, another son, aged nine, and three daughters had been moved to an undisclosed address.

The caller had tried to obtain the telephone number at their new address from the operator, but it was not given to him. How he had obtained it from another source was still not clear, it was added.

Thomas and Edith Hastie, both aged 34, the parents of the dead children, whose address was not disclosed, appeared before magistrates in Hull yesterday charged under the Criminal Damage Act with breaking windows in Selby Street on Christmas Eve. They were remanded on bail until January 17.

:cil vetoes tion test ɪool site

Correspondent

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opposition to any
uranium mining.
this month, the
! resources committee
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ı about £3,900. The
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vestigation of the soil.

Male nurses in Forces may get equal opportunity

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Sex discrimination against a number of men in the Armed Forces is likely to end next year after a study of a curious, long-standing form of inequality.

The servicemen concerned are male state registered nurses (SRNs), who can be commissioned only after working their way up through the ranks. By contrast, female SRNs can win direct commissions and enter, say, the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps as junior subalterns.

No decision has yet been made, but it is understood that the system will probably be extended to include men, first in the Royal Navy and the RAF and later for the Army.

The change will also mean that for the first time the Royal Navy and the RAF will have integrated, male and female, nursing services.

The Army still has to decide whether male nurse officers should enter the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps or continue in the Royal Army Medical Corps, which seems more likely.

There are also difficulties over the career structures of all three Services, and the Ministry of Defence points out that even female SRNs are not granted commissions automatically. They need to show that they have qualities that would enable them to take command, in hospital or in the field.

The Armed Forces are exempt from the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, because of the special nature of the jobs done.

On the other hand, they try to work within the spirit of the Act. The sexes, for instance, get the same basic pay, although women receive an additional "X" factor of only 5 per cent, against 10 per cent for men, because their non-combative jobs do not involve as much turbulence in their domestic lives.

ia fears immigration rules will affect rites

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United Kingdom who
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them and any other relatives
who would be admissible as de-
pendents of the parents, and
adequate accommodation for
them.

"They must also be without
other relatives in their own
country to turn to and have a
standard of living substantially
below that of their own country.

"This provision should not
be extended to people below 65
(other than widowed mothers)
except where they are living
alone in the most exceptional
compassionate circumstances."

Dr Singh has presented an
aide memoire to Mr Whitelaw
and notes that the rules do not
specify the degree or precise
nature of relationship to "rela-
tives" to whom such depen-
dents can "turn" in India. Nor
do they take into account the
willingness of such relatives to
respond.

The rules are also silent about
the criteria for determining
whether the standard of living
of such relatives is below that
of their own people.

Generally, according to the
Indian Government, elderly
parents wish to spend the last
part of their lives in their own
country.

Sons working here in steady
jobs to send money home to
support elderly relatives can-
not always be expected to know
when their parents will die.
The funeral takes place soon
afterwards.

Not only is it harder for
poorer families to travel but
the money they send home to
the elderly could also penalize
them under the rules.

Although the Indian Govern-
ment recognizes the right of
the British Government to set
its own controls on immigra-
tion, it is concerned about their
effect on racial harmony. The
Indian community sees the new
proposals as tougher measures
directed against elderly parents
than the institution of arranged
marriages.

Indians argue that because
poorer people have not the
money to travel and their
daughters are less likely to
have adopted British customs,
the restrictions would affect
their marriage arrangements
more than those of the better
off. The arranged marriage,
in traditional Indian eyes, is an
alliance between families as
well as couples. Courtship
before marriage has not been
common.

The Indian Government ac-
cepts that there has been some
misuse of the rules and, as has
been stated over the years, has
no wish to promote emigration
to Britain that could disturb
racial harmony or bilateral re-
lations between the two coun-
tries. But according to the
Indian Government genuine
"arranged marriages" canot be
equated with "marriages of
convenience".

The Indian High Commission
also receives many complaints
about refusal of leave to visitors
to enter the United Kingdom on
grounds that appear to them to
be vague or based on far-fetched
suspicions. Appropriately pre-
cise guidelines and tight super-
vision, Indians say, could do
much to ensure judicious and
humane exercise of the wide
powers and discretion granted
to immigration officials.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister
of State at the Home Office, has
written to the Confederation of
Indian Organizations (United
Kingdom) denying that pro-
posals to change immigration
rules are an attack on the
arranged marriage or the cul-
ture and traditions of minority
groups.

"It is no part of our function
as a government to interfere
with people's marriage customs,
and of course we respect the
right of the Asian community
here to adhere to their tradi-
tional practices and customs",
he wrote.

French MPs pass Bill to allow tax collection but refuse to be stampeded into budget vote

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 28

The din of the parliamentary battle has subsided. Deputies and senators ensured in record time yesterday and today that the Government would not have to default on its payments on January 1 by voting a Bill to enable it to go on raising taxes beyond this deadline.

The vote was carried against a ritual barrage of Communist and Socialist amendments, which were all predictably lost.

But the parliamentarians showed their independence by refusing to be stampeded by the Government and going through the hoops again, as they were forced to during the regular session on no fewer than four occasions by the Government's use of Article 49, which enables the Government to pass a Bill without a vote.

They balked at voting a new finance Bill for 1980 in double quick time, and put paid to the new year truce.

They have now gone back to the mountains or to their constituencies, to resume the interrupted holidays, sound out grass roots opinion (to which Parliament often seems strangely impervious) and perhaps reflect on the significance of the imbroglio in which they all have some share of responsibility. The extraordinary session will be resumed on or about January 7.

This extraordinary session may have been a command performance forced by the Government upon reluctant parliamentarians. But almost all of them feel instinctively that the elaborate charade in which they were called upon to act was a bad one. They feel that the spectators, namely the French people, have not been impressed by the quality of the actors or their choice of script.

The first reaction of each of the parties involved was to blame others—the President, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, the Giscardians, the Gaullists, and the Opposition. That leaves only the Constitutional Council blameless, save for its excess of zeal.

There was a general tendency to pin the blame on the author-producer of this poor parliamentary performance, M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister. As M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, remarked yesterday, "he simply forged ahead without bothering about the constitution".

President Giscard d'Estaing, draping himself in the role of guardian of the constitution, had given the lead by pointing an accusing finger at him. The President recalled in an official statement that he had twice expressed doubts about the conduct of the budget debate; and that the second run of the Finance Bill must be "strictly in accordance with the fundamental laws".

But after all, M Barre's broad shoulders can take it (his proverbial equanimity is reported to be quite unshaken). That is what, under the Fifth Republic, the Prime Minister is there for, to ward off attacks against the President, even if it is not quite cricket.

M Mitterrand said: "The President's way of taking refuge behind his Government, which he directs in a hair-splitting fashion, does not correspond to the spirit of the constitution."

There are already indications that for the French man in the street this quarrel about who is to blame is both useless and beside the point. President Giscard d'Estaing, a past-master in the art of taking the drama out of French political controversies, insists that the whole affair of the mishandled budget is a purely procedural one.

The Gaullists see it as one of principle; and the Opposition as one of substance, namely the executive's contempt for Parliament.

Certainly, whoever is to blame, the prestige of the National Assembly does not emerge enhanced from the budgetary ordeal. The Government's repeated use of Article 49 to force through important legislation without a vote, is perfectly legal. Unrepentant, it is preparing to use it at least twice more in January to get the budget through.

The question remains, however, whether it is politically opportune. Irrespective of who is to blame, to reduce Parliament to the role of a rubber stamp is to place the executive, first the Prime Minister, and next the President, directly into the firing line.

The founding fathers of the 1958 constitution had not provided for a majority which supported the Government, as the Gaullists are doing, by fits and starts.

Chance of reopening Rock frontier fades

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 28

The chance of a late Christmas gift for Gibraltarians, in the form of a temporary opening of the frontier with Spain, faded today as the Spanish Parliament adjourned until the second week in January.

Señor Alejandro Rojas Marcos, the leader of the Andalucian Socialist Party, had tabled a question for the Government earlier this week, asking about the possibility of opening the border which has remained closed for 10 years, "as a humanitarian gesture and evidence of good will towards the people of Gibraltar and of that part of Andalucia which borders on it."

However, there was no time for an answer before Parliament adjourned. The last hope that Gibraltarian and Andalucian relatives might be spared the frustrations of having to shout their greetings through the chain-link fence, lies with the Cabinet, which is to hold a regular meeting tomorrow. But political observers thought it unlikely that the matter would be considered at the meeting.

In Spain Christmas gifts are traditionally exchanged on the feast of the Epiphany, or January 6, rather than on Christmas Day.

Gibraltar has been in the news in Spain often during the past few months, and Spanish Socialists have several times urged the Government to reopen the frontier.

A leading article in Madrid's morning newspaper, Hoja del Lunes, claimed on December 10: "Great Britain holds on to the Rock because it has installed a naval base there with nuclear weapons, which is consequently a threat to the lives of those living in the Gibraltar area and to all Spaniards."

The newspaper asked whether the Spanish Government could "guarantee that there is no possibility of an accident occurring as a result of this unspeakable aggression against the sacred right to life of the citizens of another country."

Other prominent Spanish politicians including Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the leader of the conservative Popular Alliance, have recently proposed home rule for Gibralatarians within the Spanish state.

Strike stops most flights from Lisbon

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, Dec 28

Lisbon's Portela airport was largely paralysed today by a 24-hour strike by ground staff of the national airline TAP. Only Scandinavian Air Services, Trans World Airlines and Canadian Pacific Airlines were able to operate, since they have their own ground staff at Portela.

The strike concerns salary increases, which ground staff do not consider adequate in comparison with recent pay awards for other categories of airport workers.

The airport control-tower staff threaten to strike on Monday in protest largely against what they deem to be inadequate technical equipment at Portela which, they say, endangers aircraft operations.

Among those affected by today's strike was Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, leader of the Democratic Alliance, which won the recent parliamentary elections. He was due to return from a short holiday in Funchal today and was then expected to form the new Portuguese Government. His flight has been postponed until tomorrow.

Mr Hallgrimsson asked to form Iceland coalition

Reykjavik, Dec 28.—President Kristian Eldjarn of Iceland has asked Mr Geir Hallgrimsson, leader of the conservative Independent party to form a coalition government, after Mr Steingrimur Hermannsson, leader of the Progressive Party, failed to form a government.

The Independents emerged as the largest single party in Iceland after the recent general elections with 60 seats in the Althing.

Observers here say Mr Hallgrimsson will have difficulty forming a government mainly because the conservative views of his party make a coalition with leftists difficult, and he is expected to attempt an alliance with either the Social Democrats or the People's Alliance.—UPI.

The Pope discusses Küng ban with German bishops

Rome, Dec 28.—The Pope today discussed with five West German bishops the controversy over the Vatican's suspension of Professor Hans Küng as a Roman Catholic theologian.

No details were available about the meeting, held at the Pope's invitation in his residence in Castelgandolfo outside Rome. But the Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Ratzinger, said before it started that he did not expect the ban to be lifted.

Two other Cardinals present were the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Höffner, chairman of the German Bishop's Conference, and the Archbishop of Mainz, Cardinal Volk. Professor Küng's superior, the Bishop of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Mgr Georg Moser, and the Archbishop of Freiburg, Mgr Oskar Saier, also took part, a spokesman said.

The five prelates were invited to discuss reactions to the suspension of Professor Küng. The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ruled that Professor Küng, director of the Ecumenical Research Institute at Tübingen University, could no longer be considered a Catholic theologian.

It cited his well-publicized doubts about the infallibility of the Church and the Pope and his ideas about the divinity of Christ. It also cited his refusal to come to Rome for questioning.

The Pope endorsed the ban, effectively removing Professor Küng's right to teach as a Catholic theologian. The German bishops supported the move.—Reuter.

Head of Swedish euthanasia group sent to jail

Stockholm, Dec 28.—Mrs Berit Hedeby, head of the Swedish Association for the Legal Right to Die, must go to jail for a year for helping an incurably sick man to kill himself, the Supreme Court confirmed here today.

The judges upheld the verdict of a lower court, which found that in June, 1977, Mrs Hedeby, a journalist, actively hastened the death of Sven Erik Handberg, who had more than once pleaded to be put out of his pain. After obtaining poison for him, she finally administered a lethal dose of insulin, the jury found.

Lorry men 'entertained' in EEC butter fraud

The Hague, Dec 28.—Dutch customs officials are investigating a massive EEC butter fraud which allegedly involved entertaining Dutch lorry drivers in Romania with wine, women and expensive meals.

The Finance Ministry has confirmed that it is investigating the racket whereby lorries left the Netherlands for East Europe loaded with several tons of butter qualifying for an EEC export subsidy of about 32p a kilo.

According to *De Telegraaf* the fraud was revealed by a Dutch lorry driver returning through West Germany from Romania ostensibly with a load of frozen strawberries. He made a point of informing customs officials that his vehicle had been loaded in his absence.

The officials removed the strawberries to find butter which had been exported from the Netherlands a few days before and was being secretly reimported for a company in Munich, where it could command the higher EEC price.

De Telegraaf quoted drivers interviewed subsequently as saying their lorries were always loaded in their absence.

The extent of the fraud is not yet known, but the paper estimated that it has cost the Community taxpayer more than £1m.—Agence France-Presse.

Bombs damage police site

Bergamo, Italy, Dec 28.—Terrorists set off about 10 bombs last night at the construction site of a carabinieri station near here, causing serious damage, the police said today.

There were no immediate claims of responsibiliry

Lost hikers found

Ramundberget, Sweden, Dec 28.—Three young hikers missing overnight in freezing temperatures and a blizzard in a remote mountain area near the Norwegian border have been found alive and well only 500 yards from a shelter.

Peace in Nice for quiet president

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 28

President Giscard d'Estaing's timid attempts a few years ago to introduce a more homespun style into the staid nineteenth century protocol of the Presidency—like walking up the Champs Elysées on July 14, entertaining dustmen to breakfast at the Elysée, and shaking hands with the inmates of Lyons prison—have been dismal failures.

That is why M Giscard d'Estaing has shed the homespun fashion for a more regal one, which, the French being what they are, both pleases and irritates them.

Not so President Pertini of Italy. True, when on duty at the Quirinale Palace, he is surrounded by the splendour and pomp of the former temporal power of the Popes, including the splendid *Corassieri* of the Presidential guard.

But when holidaying in Nice, as he has been doing now for a number of years, he leaves all protocol behind. He lives with his wife in a small flat in the centre of the town, and drops into a neighbouring café for his morning coffee, like any ordinary Frenchman.

Few people know that this brisk and debonair octogenarian with white hair and an avuncular air, who wears a very democratic cloth cap and puffs away at his pipe, is the Italian head of state.

Those who do, marvel at his simplicity. They call him the "anti-waste" president, because he travelled from Rome with his wife in a car driven by a friend.

Two Italian bodyguards keep a discreet watch over him from a distance, in order not to disturb the peace and quiet which he comes to seek in Nice.

"For 1980 I wish my country peace and stability, and the same for France, for which I have deep affection", he says. "Nice is a magnificent town to which I like to return to see a few real friends."

Spaniards take to democratic freedoms

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Dec 28

With the publication of a decree signed by King Juan Carlos, Spain's new democratic constitution became the supreme law of the land a year ago on December 29.

The drive for freedom was accelerated two years before that when the Spanish people accepted an invitation, the like of which they had not heard in nearly 40 years: to vote freely on whether they favoured democratic reform.

"Speak, people, speak", said the catchy government-sponsored singing commercial. And they did. They voted *si* overwhelmingly on December 15, 1976, giving the Prime Minister, Señor Adolfo Suarez the authority he needed to begin dismantling the institutions of the Franco regime and erecting the framework of a constitutional monarchy.

That referendum made the drafting of the constitution possible. It, in turn, was approved by referendum on December 6, 1978, and came into force by the end of that month.

The guarantees are ample and right up to date. Spain's constitution not only takes into account classic definitions of freedom, it even promises such things as freedom against computerized snooping. Article 18 states: "The law will limit the use of computers in order to guarantee the honour and personal and family privacy of citizens and the full exercise of their rights."

There have been some stumbling blocks along the route to liberty, however, and there is still some distance to be covered. Most of the obstacles took the form of antiquated legislation, still on the books and apparently contradicting the constitution.

Most Spaniards seem to have faith in a general desire by their elected representatives to revise such legislation as soon as possible and, with a few notable exceptions, the courts seem to be taking into account the spirit of the constitution as much as the letter of the existing law.

For that reason the shouts of "Franco, Franco, Franco", which echoed through the streets of Madrid last month during a rally commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Generalissimo's death were more a reminder of the past than a threat for the future.

His supporters were no longer the only ones allowed to demonstrate.

The new freedom is evident. women take to the streets to march in favour of legalizing abortion. Justice Ministry officials go on strike for better working conditions, leaving births and deaths temporarily unregistered.

Old-age pensioners demonstrate to call attention to their demands for better retirement pay. Spanish homosexuals are declaring themselves and the head of the Spanish consumers' organization takes on state-protected Goliath, the national telephone company, over a controversial rate rise—and wins.

The proliferation of discos, pubs, teahouses and the like are evidence that Spain's youth is enjoying new found freedom. Although the strict laws on "coming of age" are mostly still on the books. Spanish fathers are giving their daughters more rein. The youth oriented establishments always seem crowded despite the lack of spending money linked to rising unemployment, particularly among school leavers.

There are abuses. There is also confusion about the limits of authority in a free country. Not everybody is happy and the far right still choruses the slogan "under Franco we lived better".

Some of them certainly did but many dissenters live better now.

Drug addiction deaths rise in West Berlin

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, Dec 28

Some 79 people have died through misuse of drugs in West Berlin this year, the youngest aged 16. After a drop from 84 deaths in 1977 to 62 last year, this means an increase of 17.

The exact number of drug addicts in the city is not known. Experts say another 1,000 should be added to the police figure of 2,250 known heroin addicts.

Stricter official measures account for the fact that this year close to 4,000 offenders in the drug field were registered by the police, a 25 per cent increase on last year. Criminal offences connected with drugs went up by about 15 per cent compared to last year.

OVERSEAS

Soviet troops patrol Kabul as shooting continues after coup

By Our Foreign Staff

Soviet troops were patrolling the streets of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, yesterday and Mig jets were flying overhead after a Soviet-backed coup installed Afghanistan's third Government in 18 months, diplomatic sources reported.

The Russian troops took part in the fighting that accompanied the coup in which President Hafizullah Amin was toppled and quickly executed, the sources said.

Russians are reported to have manned tanks and armoured personnel carriers during three hours of tank and artillery fire that ended at midnight on Thursday.

Last night Kabul radio reported that Amin's younger brother and a nephew were executed yesterday along with the former President.

All three were reported to have been found guilty of crimes against the Afghan people by a revolutionary court comprising "revolutionary religious and working class leaders".

The radio named Amin's brother as Abdullah Amin, military commander of the Northern Sector, and the nephew as Assadullah Amin, head of the secret police and Deputy Foreign Minister.

Kabul radio said earlier that Amin had been eliminated and announced that a new Revolutionary Council headed by Mr Babrak Karmal, a former Vice-President, had taken power.

The radio said President Amin headed a despotic, tyrannical regime that had been responsible for the deaths of a great number of innocent people.

Sources in Delhi reported that some fighting continued in Kabul yesterday. The city was reported to be filled with armoured vehicles, particularly near Kabul radio station.

Mr Karmal's Democratic People's Party yesterday promised that elections would be held in the country soon, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting Kabul radio.

The report said that all progressive parties, except that supporting Amin, would be allowed freedom of political activity. No election date was given.

Mr Karmal himself pledged that he would seek a political solution to the Muslem rebellion that threatened his predecessors and led Moscow to increase its military involvement.

Earlier this year, the Soviet Union through its embassy in Kabul, urged the Government to seek a political solution to end the insurgency in which guerrillas have taken control of the countryside and pushed government forces back to the cities and towns.

There were indications yesterday that at least some of the insurgents regard Mr Karmal as a Soviet puppet and will continue fighting.

A spokesman for the Hizb-i-Islami group said the coup had brought no change to the Government in Kabul and said the group would continue the struggle to establish an Islamic republic.

Other insurgent leaders in Pakistan were studying the new Government before commenting, spokesmen said.

Authoritative sources in Islamabad said the Pakistan Government believed the coup might lead to a political solution. An estimated 400,000 Afghan refugees have fled to Pakistan to escape the fighting, and Islamabad is deeply interested in a solution that would permit their return.

But an Afghan exile movement based in Iran said yesterday it would fight on against the Kabul Government.

The Islamic Movement of Afghanistan said: "The overthrow of the treacherous Hafizullah Amin and the coming to power of the mercenary Babrak Karmal, lackey of the Soviet Union . . . makes the decisiveness of the militant Muslems of Afghanistan in taking back independence and national sovereignty more serious".

Mr Karmal named a 14-man Cabinet that included mainly members of the Parcham (flag) Party that was purged by Amin during his three-month presidency.

The new Government includes Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, a hero of the revolution of April, 1978, who was later purged by Amin.

Indian response: In spite of western indications of direct Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, the Indian Government yesterday refused to take a stand condemning the influx of Soviet troops and the replacement by Mr Babrak Karmal of the Amin regime as interference in the internal affairs of a friendly neighbouring country (Richard Wigg writes from Delhi).

Mr Yuri Yorontsov, the Soviet Ambassador, called on Mr R. D. Sathe, the senior official in India's External Affairs Ministry, at midnight on Thursday to give Moscow's version of a request by the Afghan leadership "for military aid against what was claimed to be an external threat.

The Indian Cabinet has not met to consider the serious situation for the region that many Indian observers feared had been developing for months.

With the election now less than a week away ministers did not interrupt the last day of campaigning. Mr S. N. Mishra, the External Affairs Minister, is not in Delhi but in his Bihar constituency.

India has a treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union signed by Mrs Gandhi and officially enjoys very good relations with Moscow, as was carefully emphasized here yesterday. Any forthright stand on Moscow's actions in Kabul by the caretaker Government with only days to live might immediately boomerang.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said as a result that India was "still assessing for itself" the Soviet claim that it had sent a contingent of troops under the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed with Kabul last December.

Mr Karmal, fourth Afghan President in 20 months, is more pro-Soviet than predecessor, but more moderate

Kabul's soft-spoken new leader

Mr Karmal: Survived purge

Mr Babrak Karmal, a soft-spoken Marxist who has replaced Hafizullah Amin as President of Afghanistan, is considered more pro-Soviet than Amin but more moderate on the issues that have antagonized Afghanistan's traditionalist tribesmen.

Mr Karmal, aged 50, the son of a provincial governor, was educated at a German-language school and graduated in law from Kabul University.

Nothing in his official biography suggests the assessment by Washington intelligence officials: "An explosive character, as close as you could ever get to the classic Moscow-line Communist."

The intelligence sources say that in the 1950s Mr Karmal served a five-year prison term for political activities.

Later, as an outspoken member of Afghanistan's short-lived Parliament, known as the Wolesi Jirga, he made no secret of his left-wing views and in 1966 was involved in a fight in the legislature that landed him in hospital.

His Parcham (flag) Party was the only Afghan Marxist group to support the overthrow of King Zahir Shah in 1973 by Muhammad Daoud. But when Daoud banned political parties in 1977 Mr Karmal joined forces with the Khalq (People's) Party of Nur Muhammad Taraki.

What resulted was the Democratic Khalq Party. As military leader of the party Hafizullah Amin successfully recruited important elements of the armed forces.

These officers led the coup of April, 1978, that overthrew Daoud after he ordered the arrest of Mr Karmal, Taraki and Amin who had protested over the killing of a party official.

After the coup, Taraki assumed the position of President and Prime Minister, and Mr Karmal acted as his deputy. However, after a dispute, Mr Karmal was purged and sent to Prague as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

Although ordered to return to Afghanistan by Amin in September, 1978, Mr Karmal refused and went underground, possibly in the Soviet Union.

Taraki was overthrown and killed in a coup led by Amin, who had risen to Prime Minister, in September. He survived Taraki by just 15 weeks.—AP and UPI.

Congressman studies Shah's alleged crimes

Tehran, Dec 28.—Representative George Hansen, who is visiting Iran on a self-appointed mission to help the American ostages, said here today he was collecting evidence for a congressional hearing on the alleged crimes of the former Shah.

Mr Hansen, an Idaho Republican, told a press conference he was certain Congress would investigate American links with Iran over the past 30 years and the deposed Shah's financial ties with the United States.

He added that he wanted to see evidence of alleged torture, prison conditions and repression. "It is important to be on the scene and get the other side. I think we should get the evidence on the table", he said.

Referring to possible release of the hostages, he said he thought Iran would "settle for less than the actual physical return of the Shah".

Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, the Russian Ambassador, today met Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, against a background of Soviet involvement in neighbouring Afghanistan and American attempts to blockade Iran.

Informed sources said the meeting took place in the holy city of Qom. They said Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, was also present but no details were available.

The ambassador's visit coincided with American moves to win approval by the United Nations Security Council for an international economic blockade against Iran

Clergymen return: Three American clergymen who visited their embassy in Tehran for Christmas returned here last night, insisting they had met only 43 Americans. They appealed to the State Department and the Iranian Embassy in Washington to compare names and formally end the controversy over the number being held.

The State Department says that 50 people are being held hostage. Tehran newspapers give the number as 49.

'No hostages moved': One of the Iranian militants holding the Americans hostage in Tehran said in a televised interview shown in the United States today that no captives had been moved from the embassy.

The Iranian, who spoke through an interpreter, said the hostages would not be moved until they were taken to court to be tried. — Reuter.

California clash not eased by court ruling

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Dec 28

The complexities of governing the most populous state in the union grew a little more tortuous this week with Thursday's ruling from the California Supreme Court declaring that while the Democratic Governor, Mr Jerry Brown is away from the state his deputy, Mr Mike Curb, who happens to be a Republican, can make appointments in his absence.

The court, however, also ruled that when Mr Brown returns to Sacramento he can, should he wish, nullify Mr Curb's appointments.

Observers consider the ruling as something of a standoff, guaranteed to keep both sides happy in a long-running dispute that erupted shortly after Mr Brown was re-elected governor and Mr Curb, a former Hollywood record company executive, his number two.

It was the first time this century that candidates from two different parties were elected to those key offices.

The politically charged constitutional power struggle came to a head last March when Mr Curb appointed Judge Armand Arabian, as presiding justice of the state court of appeal in Los Angeles.

On his return from Washington Mr Brown rescinded the appointment in favour of Appellate Justice Bernard Jefferson. Yesterday the Supreme Court upheld the Jefferson appointment.

But following the court decision handed down in San Francisco, both sides claim the victory.

Mr Brown's office said they preferred to read the justices' decision completely. Mr Curb issued a statement noting that he was "extremely gratified that the court was upheld over 180 years of practice in California history that the Lieutenant Governor has all the powers of the Governor and is acting Governor for all practical purposes when the Governor is physically absent from the state."

In arguments to the Supreme Court, Mr Anthony Kline, legal affairs secretary, to Mr Brown, contended that because of today's modern communications systems a Governor is able to run his state even while he is away.

In the last year Mr Brown has been out of California 24 times for a total of 81 days, most of that period spent campaigning for the Presidency. In 1980 he is expected to be absent from the state for even longer periods as the campaign tempo increases.

Earlier this year police reported a "Keystone Cop" type of scene in which Mr Curb, driving at speeds of 100 miles an hour, raced to the state capital to sign a bill after learning that his boss would shortly be flying back to California to veto it.

The court's decision also said clearly that while the Governor is away "the Lieutenant Governor is free to act on whatever matters he determines need attention during the Governor's absence".

At stake is not only the authority to make appointments but to approve new Bills, issue executive orders, grant pardons and preside over a $22,000m (£10,000m) state budget.

One pundit, a veteran observer of the confrontations between the two politicians has described it as "simply a battle for control of the California playpen".

Turkey asks Saudis for huge loan in emergency

From Our Correspondent
Jiddah, Dec 28

Turkey is requesting an emergency credit of up to £1,000m (£460m) from Saudi Arabia, arguing that without the money the Turkish Government will fall.

Mr Ismat Siazkin, Turkish Minister of Finance, is here to persuade the Government to make the loan, which Ankara wishes to have no strings attached. It would be allocated mainly to payments for oil imports.

Mr Siazkin is also asking for a guaranteed supply of Saudi crude of six million tonnes a year, with the first deliveries immediately, to be sold at a concessionary price of $15 or less a barrel. [Saudi Arabia raised its price from $18 to $24 a barrel two weeks ago].

He met Shaikh Muhammad Aba al-Khail, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance and National Economy, on Wednesday and the second meeting is to be held tomorrow. It is unusual for two such meetings to be held with a minister on an official visit. He will meet King Khaled tomorrow.

No details beyond official platitudes have been released, but it is understood that Mr Siazkin is telling the Saudis that Turkey's financial position is so perilous that without emergency aid to meet the conditions attached to its $300m International Monetary Fund facility, the new Demirel Government will be replaced by an extremist group, possibly by force.

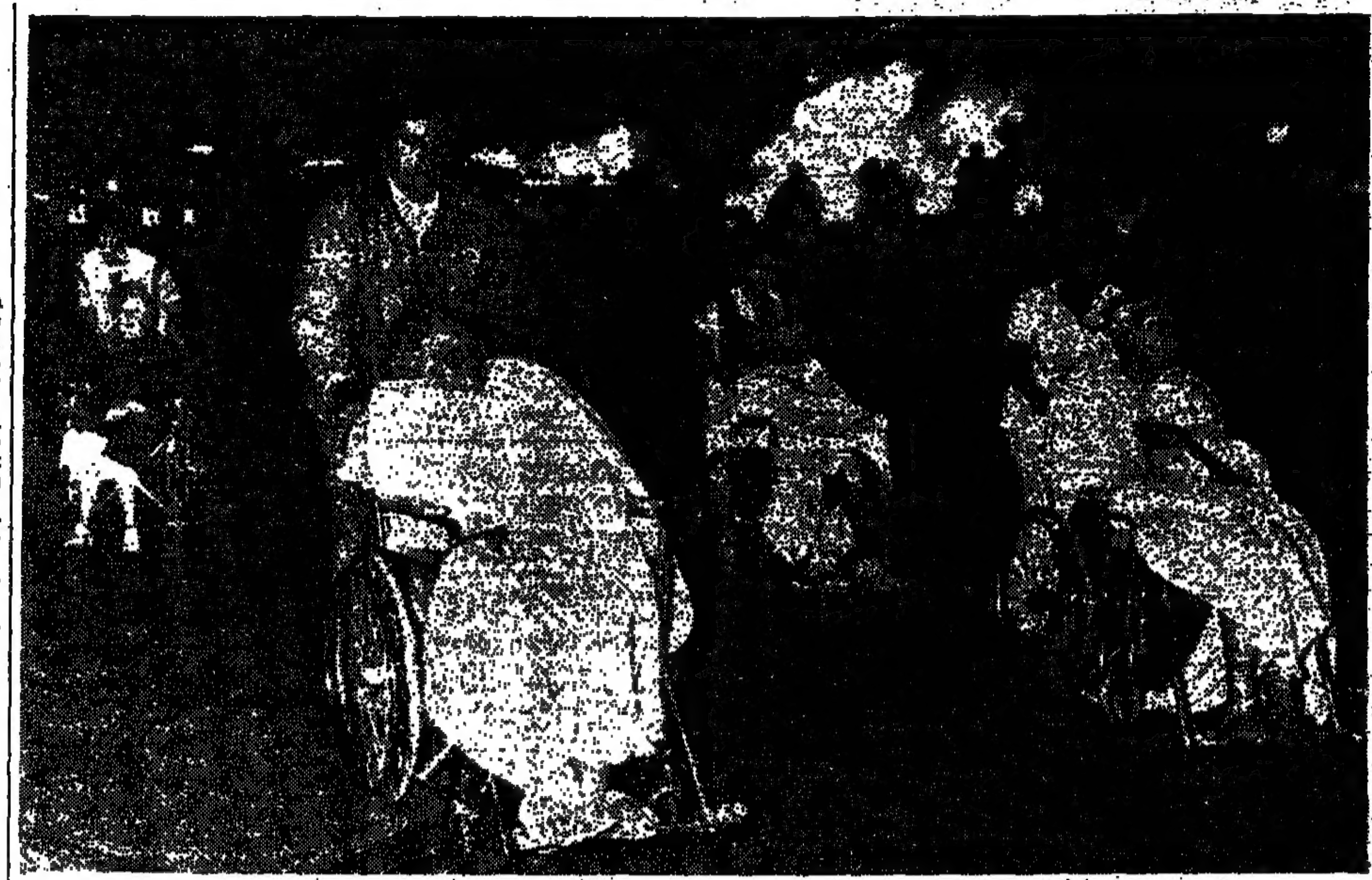
He is also saying that the Turkish Army is a valuable constraint on the Iranian revolution, the only factor which prevented civil war over the recent Azerbaijan uprising.

No information is available on how well he is being received, but there will certainly be sympathy for his case, particularly after events in Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia is not thought to have given any direct budgetary assistance to Ankara, but in April the Saudi Fund for Development made its largest single loan—its first to Turkey—of $250m for existing projects hampered by shortages of foreign exchange.

In the summer, the Jiddah-based Islamic Development Bank, to which Saudi Arabia is a big contributor, allowed credit of $30m to finance imports.

A royal decree has been issued allowing a government-to-government agreement on an oil entitlement for Turkey; but no agreement has yet been signed.



Nursing-home patients in Kansas City being wheeled to safety yesterday when buildings under construction near by caught fire. The city's firemen are on a go-slow.

Military leader's death was murder, politician says

Continued from page 1

Salisbury, now with 16 seats. Mashonaland central has six seats, Matabeleland South six, Midlands 12 and Victoria 11.

Tonight the Commonwealth forces monitoring the ceasefire were due to be in position at midnight at 23 rendezvous and 16 assembly points round the country. Lord Soames appealed this evening to the Patriotic Front forces to stick to the arrangements agreed at Lancaster House and emphasized that they would not be surrendering.

Earlier today the Governor made a secret visit to one of the most dangerous war areas. He drove to Marandellas, 45 miles east of Salisbury where he received a police briefing on security in the area.

Afterwards, he drove to Rusape, 100 miles east of Salisbury, for another briefing before flying across tribal trust lands in the south.

A mine exploded today under a Rhodesian police vehicle escorting British troops to a remote bush camp to be used as a gathering point for the guerillas forces. Later the convoy continued on its way.

Suspicions about the death of Mr Josiah Tongogara, the Zanla commander, were raised in Salisbury today by Mr David Mukome, the retiring Foreign Minister.

Mr Mukome told the National Observer he had reliable information from Maputo that Mr Tongogara was murdered on Monday, not killed in a road crash on Wednesday as reported from Maputo. He added that Mr Tongogara was murdered by Zanla forces who were dissatisfied with the settlement and ceasefire arrangements.

Mr Mukome said the Chimoio area where Mr Tongogara was reported to have been killed in the crash did not have a road as such, only a winding track. He claimed that Mr Tongogara's body was already in the mortuary in Maputo when the Patriotic Front commanders flew in the chartered aircraft to Salisbury late on Wednesday.

Mr Tongogara's death was not announced then because the whole business had not yet been stage-managed to look like an accident, he said. Mr Mukome added that Mr Tongogara's death was yet another blow to the Victoria province of Rhodesia which already had most of its prominent politicians locked up in Mozambique; Mr Tongogara had unsuccessfully pressed Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zanu leader, for their release.

Tonight Mr Michael Mawema's National Front of Zimbabwe Party also claimed that Mr Tongogara had been murdered.

Firm to develop China resort

Hongkong, Dec 28. — A company here has won a contract worth about $HK30m (£2.7m) to develop a resort on China's south coast.

The development near Hongkong would include a 150-bed hotel, a trotting track, tennis courts and facilities for water sports. It is a joint venture with the Chinese tourist authorities. — Reuter.

Separate constitution for Zanzibar is approved

Dar es Salaam, Dec 28.—An extraordinary national conference of Tanzania's ruling revolutionary party, Chama cha Mapinduzi, today approved a separate constitution for Zanzibar, Tanzania radio reported.

It said the move, aimed at streamlining the island's administration and strengthening democracy there, was passed unanimously.

The conference of some 1,700 delegates from every region is the only body empowered to amend the constitution and normally convenes once every five years.

Zanzibar joined the Tanganyika mainland in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Although it came under the same constitution it kept its own largely autonomous government and in practice has been ruled by decree since the 1964 revolution.

Under the new proposals, which Mr Aboud Jumbe, the leader of Zanzibar, has said are aimed at strengthening democracy, the island has a separate constitution providing for an elected council of representatives.

The party will recommend the sole candidate for chairman of the island's ruling Revolutionary Council (at present Mr Jumbe) who will then have to receive 50 per cent of the popular vote to be elected.

The chairman will then nominate Revolutionary Council members from the Council of Representatives, elected by popular vote every five years.

Diplomatic sources on Zanzibar said the new constitution has met with vociferous opposition from Mr Jumbe's political opponents. These are thought to centre around old guard, conservative council members.—Reuter.

Syria's defecting envoy accused of Cairo links

Damascus, Dec 28.—The Syrian Government, surprised by the resignation of Mr Hammoud el-Shoufi, its representative at the United Nations, accused him today of collaborating with Egyptian intelligence and misusing his official position.

Mr el-Shoufi announced his resignation last night at a New York press conference at which he accused President Assad's Government of corruption, repression and opportunism. He said he would join efforts to forge an opposition front abroad.

Mr Shoufi, who is 52, was the most senior official to defect since Mr Assad seized power nine years ago. He has been ambassador in Buenos Aires, Rome and Moscow, and chief of the United States section at the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry said that Mr Shoufi was ordered home on December 7 after presenting views at the United Nations contrary to Syrian policy. He refused to heed the order.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised Shoufi of its decision to transfer him to Damascus (and) punish him for his involvement and collaboration with the intelligence service of the Egyptian regime", a statement said.

It added that Mr Shoufi had misused his official position "in the service of the Camp David policies".

Mr Shoufi's resignation coincided with a congress of the Syrian Baath Party, which opened last Saturday against a background of sectarian violence and widespread economic discontent.

At least 120 people were reported to have died over the past six months in violence chiefly aimed at members of the minority Muslim Alawite sect to which President Assad belongs.

The Government has blamed the Muslim Brotherhood for the violence. The state-run press has accused Saudi Arabia and Jordan of training Brotherhood activists.

Western diplomats thought it likely that Mr Shoufi would join exiled opposition politicians such as Mr Issam al-Attar, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood and Mr Salah Bitar, the former Prime Minister.

Mr Bitar, who lives in Paris, has recently begun publishing a magazine critical of conditions in Syria. Mr Attar has issued periodic calls for the overthrow of the Syrian Government from exile in West Germany.—Reuter.

African church group looks for new leader

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Dec 28

The All Africa Conference of Churches, which has its headquarters here, announced today that the post of general secretary is now vacant, and member churches are being invited to submit nominations for the post.

Canon Burgess Carr, a Liberian Anglican, has been its general secretary until now. He left Kenya two years ago after clashing with Kenyan leaders who objected to statements comparing the Kenyan political system to that of pre-revolution Ethiopia, and has not since returned to resume his post.

Yesterday, Mr Kodwo Ankrah, the acting general secretary, said the conference was facing a financial crisis because overseas donors, who contribute most of its funds, have withheld their donations until the leadership problem is solved.

Three die as El Salvador leftists bomb US firms

San Salvador, Dec 28.—Three people were killed in a bombing attack during the night at the United States First National City Bank here.

Earlier, a Marxist organization, the Popular Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for explosions which damaged two American company buildings, the bank and the ITT telecommunications building.

The victims at the bank were a night watchman, one of the attackers and a passerby.

About 18 Liberal Front members, some on foot and others in two vehicles, converged on the bank office in San Salvador's commercial district shortly after midnight and shot dead the night watchman, a witness said.

Advertisements in both daily newspapers here today pleaded for the life of Mr Archibald Dunn, the South African Ambassador who was kidnapped a month ago by the Marxist guerrilla group.

The kidnappers have said that failure to comply fully with their demands that their communiqués be published here on Wednesday and Thursday of this week and in 103 other countries by January 15 could be grounds for "executing" Mr Dunn.

The deadline passed in El Salvador without the communiqués being published.

After Mr Dunn was kidnapped, El Salvador passed a law that forbids publication of such communiqués unless they are signed by at least five people whose identities are known.—Agence France-Presse, AP and UPI.

Burglars rob 'Times' correspondent

Hongkong, Dec 28.—Mr Richard Hughes, a correspondent here of The Times, was tied up and robbed early today of cash, valuables and travellers cheques.

Mr Hughes, aged 74, said three burglars, armed with sticks and a cleaver, forced their way into his flat through a service entrance, bound and gagged him and his wife and ransacked the flat.—Reuter.

Six found dead in Himalayan flight wreckage

Katmandu, Dec 28. — Five West German tourists and the Indian pilot were found dead today in the wreckage of a helicopter that vanished yesterday on a sight-seeing tour in the Nepalese Himalayas.

The crash was spotted from a helicopter at about 8,500ft in a deep forested gorge of the Trisuli River north of Katmandu.

Banker becomes monk

Bangkok, Dec 28.—Dr Snoh Unakul, aged 48, who resigned as governor of the Bank of Thailand two months ago, was ordained as a Buddhist monk here yesterday.

'Cover-up' of Turkey's violence

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Dec 28

Liberal circles in Turkey are criticizing what they believe is censorship by Ankara's martial law authority of radio and television coverage of the political violence that has claimed more than 2,500 lives in Turkey in the past two years.

A letter sent recently to the TRT, the state broadcasting organization, requested that martial law officials be consulted before news and commentary dealing with political violence or parties was broadcast.

Critics claim that since then TRT bulletins have ignored some important events and given minimal coverage to others. These include the teachers' union rally against "fascism and anti-democratic laws". Last Monday on the anniversary of the Kahramanmaras massacre that led to the proclamation of martial law in 19 of Turkey's 67 provinces.

Nearly 4,000 people were arrested and at least three killed in political violence on the day of the rally, and viewers in Ankara, where the violence was most visible were surprised by the minimal coverage.

A number of political killings have been ignored in news bulletins.

Right wingers seem to be the main victims of recent violence. The extreme right-wing Nationalist Action Party said 29 party members had been killed in two weeks.

In Istanbul, police arrested 27 members of the right-wing Idealist Youth Association. A number of weapons and ammunition were found at the organization's headquarters, as well as a list of liberal and leftist figures marked for assassination.

Among them were Professor Haluk Alp, Rector of Istanbul University, Professor Tarik Zafer Tunaya, Dean of the School of Political Sciences, Mr Aziz Nesin, president of the Writers' Union of Turkey, and Mr Orhan Apaydin, president of the Istanbul Bar Association.

Police also found blank membership cards of the social democratic Republican People's Party of Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Prime Minister. They speculated that these were to be used to infiltrate party functions.

One of the men arrested is said to have confessed that members of the association had planned the escape earlier this year of 13 right-wing terrorists from an Istanbul prison.

The violence has increased sharply since Mr Suleyman Demirel's conservative minority Government came to power just over a month ago. He has now pushed through Parliament a new agenda that will give priority to Bills dealing with political violence and law-and-order issues.

Dr Sakharov misled by incorrect report

Moscow, Dec 28.—Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident leader, said today that a report distributed by him last Wednesday of a human rights activist who had tried to commit suicide in his cell had proved to be false.

Dr Sakharov told Western reporters by telephone: "I was misled. This report must be acknowledged to be incorrect".

He had said that Mr Oleksa Tikhy, a member of a Soviet Ukranian human rights group, had tried to kill himself by setting himself on fire.

Mr Tikhy, aged 52, a former teacher, is serving a 10-year hard labour sentence

Japanese urged to work less and rest more

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Dec 28

Workers on Japan's highly efficient assembly lines now earn 35 per cent more than their counterparts in Britain, a survey by the Japanese Labour Ministry indicated today.

But the report goes on to reveal that most wage earners in Japan are prepared to work a six-day week, sacrifice 40 per cent of their annual holiday in the interests of their company, and seldom resort to destructive strikes.

Other statistics indicate that in terms of working days lost the incidence of industrial unrest in Britain was 25 times greater than that in Japan during the first six months of the year.

Examining the structure of wages in Japan last year the report shows that the nominal wages of Japanese workers are about 30 per cent behind those in the United States and West Germany.

However the report goes on to concede that the purchasing power of the average Japanese wage earner has been considerably diminished by the high price of food, housing and consumer goods.

"This would reduce real wages to levels considerably lower than those in the United States and West Germany. But the real wages in Japan would be slightly higher than those in Britain", an official explains.

The survey points out that a five-day work week has been introduced in other industrialized nations in the West. "But in Japan only 44 per cent of large companies and only three per cent of small companies operate under a five-day work week.

"In western countries workers take full advantage of their paid vacation. But in Japan workers utilize only 60 per cent of their holiday time", the survey declared.

The report also reveals that Japan's conscientious workers are prepared to work longer hours than their counterparts in the West. Incredible as it may seem the report would indicate that the weekly working hours of an average worker in Japan have been reduced by only 20 minutes during a decade of economic growth.

The Labour Ministry goes on to advocate shorter working hours. "During the era of rapid economic growth the working hours of Japanese workers have been decreased by 1 per cent. But there is still room for improvement through a broader acceptance of the five-day work week.

"There is a need to encourage workers to take their full paid vacation. If Japanese industries shorten the number of working hours by 1 per cent each year, then the working hours of Japanese wage earners will be on par with those in the United States and Germany by 1985", the report concludes.

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Saturday Review

Calendar of a decade

1970

e Year the Hijacker

ee airliners blown up at son's Field; Biafra enders; Mr Heath wins tion with overall majority 0; Ian Paisley in, George vn, Jennie Lee, out; the les disband; Solzhenitsyn Nobel Prize; 90-day cease- between Israel and Arabs; lips discovers giant North oilfield; South Africa ban- from Olympics.

: Rhodesian and Khmer iblics; *Ostpolitik*; BBC o London; the New English ; "This is not an inva- of Cambodia."

: Four students at Kent University, Ohio, Pathé , Iain Macleod, Salazar, er, de Gaulle, Barbirolli, Third Programme.

971

Year of China

dmits China; war between and Pakistan; Vietcong Phnom Penh; Rolls- nationalized; Amin power in Uganda; pound for first time since 1939; es Manson guilty of mur- 105 Soviet officials ex- from Britain; 12,000 ed in Washington anti- lemos.

Born: the UCS work-in; new pence; the first nude in *The Times*; Bangladesh, the National Industrial Relations Court; Dutch elm disease.

Died: Khrushchev, "Papa Doc" Duvalier, the *Daily Sketch*, the half-crown, George Jackson, Soledad brother, British Standard Time, the first British soldier in Ulster.

972

Year of Ulster

rule, Bloody Sunday, the Embassy in Dublin d, an IRA bomb at Alder- Nixon visits Moscow and ; Amin expels Uganda ; B52s make their st raids on Vietnam; a state of emergency over the miners' strike; Maudling resigns over the Poulson connexion; Nixon beats McGovern.

Born: the United Reformed Church; the Angry Brigade; the Soviet-American arms limitation treaty; Black September.

Died: 11 Israeli athletes at Munich; the Duke of Windsor, Maurice Chevalier; Sir Francis Chichester, the Brighton Belle, 482 Army, police, reservists, and civilians in Ulster.

Shattered hopes

The seventies will probably be remembered as the decade when the decline of Britain, at home and abroad, accelerated at an alarming speed. For some, the decline was all the more dismaying after the high hopes and aspirations of the swinging sixties and the Wilsonian promise of a national rebirth forged in the white heat of technology.

The rebirth proved to be a miscarriage, and in retrospect the swinging sixties largely a media event. They were discovered if not invented—nature might well have copied art—by *Time* magazine, which declared that Britain was in the midst of a bloodless revolution. A new group of people were taking over from the old establishment and creating a new kind of classlessness.

Time got it about half right. The old class system was crumbling, and Shavian middle class morality with it. The old earthiness of the English (I am not certain that this ever applied to the Scots and Welsh) reemerged, but the new group who were largely to dominate the politics of the seventies were not the cheerful, lusty Shakespearean characters the magazine saw enlivening the streets of London.

Instead, they declared a new kind of class war under the banners of equality and social justice. Butskellism and the old easy-going pragmatism gave way to an un-British ideological fervour, at least in Congress House and the national executive committee of the Labour Party. The inevitable Tory reaction followed.

Mr Paul Rose, the former Labour Member for Blackley, put it another way when he decided not to seek reelection in 1979. Parliament, he said, no longer reflected the variety and sophistication of modern society but the ossification of institutions and attitudes responsible for Britain's decline.

The concept of two monolithic classes represented by the two major parties was as simplistic as applying Adam Smith's or Karl Marx's analysis of Victorian capitalism to the EEC or Comecon. Nevertheless, the direction of the country could and did swing between the two extremes.

It did indeed, and with disastrous results. Not even the West German economy could have survived the changes of direction imposed by successive governments upon poor old Britain.

History cannot of course be neatly packaged in decades, and the danger signals were already flying in 1970. The shift to service industries had ignored the obvious fact that they could not exist without the creation of wealth, and strikes were diminishing what was left.

Efforts to restrain wages had failed to check inflation, and the then Mr Harold Wilson had failed to check inflation and union reform. De-industrialization was already under way before the dawn of the decade of decline.

Mr Edward Heath came to power determined to "roll back the frontiers of government" and set free his Selsdon Man. He was no less determined to enact trade union reform, but did not seem to understand that the nature of the power of the unions was changing.

A decisive shift in power was taking place as Mr Heath was about to discover. The trade unions were no longer the Solid South of the Labour Party. Some union leaders were beginning to look like rebellious barons. The Queen's writ no longer necessarily ran to their headquarters keeps.

The 1972 Industrial Relations Act and the government's prices and incomes policy provoked instant counter-attacks. The miners' strike of 1972 was more like guerrilla warfare than an industrial dispute.

Flying pickets proved to be Britain's Baader-Meinhoff Gang or Red Brigades, and were more successful. At the Saltley coke depot, 6,000 pickets defied the forces of law and order. That is, the elected government of the day submitted abjectly to unconstitutional forces.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader who organized the flying pickets, did not bother to disguise his political motive—that he was fighting a class war and not a wage battle. "It was them or us. We were out to defeat the Heath Government, and the only way to wage war was to attack vulnerable points. . . . We wished to paralyse the nation's economy. It's as simple as that."

Other union leaders were not so outspoken about their political ambitions, but by 1974 their quest for power had been given a new dimension. After demonstrating that they could bring down any government, Labour or Tory, they demanded a share in the control of the national economy with government and of industry with employers. The corporate state was their immediate goal.

The new Labour Government was only too happy to oblige. The Social Contract established a unique relationship between the national government and only one section of the community. Mr Wilson promised to repeal the Industrial Relations Act, subsidize food and freeze rents in return for a promise from the Trades Union Congress to restrain wage demands.

The unions were granted immunities which for most purposes placed them above the law, but the TUC was in no position to deliver. Average earnings rose by 25 per cent in the first year, and in the next some wage settlements reached 30 per cent. The value of sterling dropped as the inflation rate and public sector borrowing requirement threatened to get out of control.

The question was again asked, who rules Britain? The answer was certainly not the unions, although the TUC had largely dictated the government's industrial policy. The members of its General Council, who were deferentially treated as statesmen because they were assumed to represent organized labour, were as powerless as the government because most of them could not control their own shop stewards.

As far as the economy was concerned, nobody ruled. Posterity might decide that it was mob rule.

Financial collapse, and perhaps dangerous civil unrest, was avoided with the help of the International Monetary Fund, which demanded wage restraint and cuts in public spending, but little else was gained or learnt. Industrial guerrilla warfare broke out again after another winter of discontent in which the dead were left unburied.

The newspaper files of the seventies make grim reading. Even British membership of the European Economic Community failed to meet the high hopes of those who expected a regeneration of industry, but we all know that life was not that grim. The 1980 edition of *Social Trends*, published by the Government Statistical Service, showed how living standards of the majority actually rose as the nation's fortunes declined.

"Moving into the seventies we experienced inflation, relatively high unemployment and oil crises. But this last decade also saw a moderate increase in material wellbeing, a greater choice in personal consumption, the growth of the leisure industry, increases in company perks, a modest decline in the extent of inequalities in income and wealth, and a change in the balance between privately and publicly provided services."

For the majority, life was better in the swinging sixties despite the three-day week, annual strikes and the decline of traditional industries. More than half were owner-occupiers, enjoyed central heating and had the use of a car. More than nine out of 10 had a television set, and six out of 10 a telephone. Two out of five spent their holidays abroad.

About twelve million adults were members of trade unions, and as long as they paid their dues and went on strike when directed they could hope to keep ahead of inflation and improve their living standards. This presumably explained why most of them silently suffered strikes and disruptions until 1979 when they decided that they had had enough and helped to return the Conservatives to power.

The decade passed leaving behind two more unanswered questions. Were the majority prepared to accept a lowering of living standards, growing unemployment and other painful adjustments; and would Mrs Thatcher's policies, which called for these painful remedies, reverse the nation's decline?

I, for one, am unwilling to hazard a guess.

Louis Heren

1978

The Year of Camp David

Thirty years of war between Israel and Egypt ended; revolution in Nicaragua; North Sea oil production passes 1m barrels a day; Shell and BP accused of breaking Rhodesia sanctions; Peugeot-Citroen buys Chrysler Europe; Syrian peace-keeping forces enter Lebanon; Ian Paisley preaches in Dublin; the Amoco Cadiz spills her cargo; Princess Margaret divorced; inflation rate falls to 5.8 per cent.

Born: Louise Brown, test-tube baby, the Advanced Passenger Train, a salmon in the Thames.

Died: Popes Paul VI and John Paul I, Hubert Humphrey, the Lib-Lab Pact, Georgi Markov, the VW Beetle, Aldo Moro, Jomo Kenyatta, Golda Meir, Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, Charles Boyer, 900 fanatics by cyanide poisoning in Guyana, 11 million elm trees.

Calendar compiled by Alan Hamilton

1979

The Year of the Ayatollah

The fall of the Shah, and the American Embassy hostages; Mrs Thatcher becomes first British woman Prime Minister, with overall majority of 43; Rhodesian referendum favours black majority rule: a winter of discontent by lorry drivers and public service workers; China invades Vietnam; Carter tours the Mid-East; Amin flees Uganda; Jeremy Thorpe acquitted; the Pope visits Poland, Ireland and United States; £4,000m public spending cuts; famine in Kampuchea: nuclear accident at Three Mile Island; Leyland to cut 25,000 jobs, British Steel 52,000: the first man-powered cross-Channel flight.

Born: Zimbabwe Rhodesia, the first £1m football transfer, the Jubilee Line, Muldergate, Salt 2, the Fourth Man, a centre-right European Parliament, the Minister of Weather.

Died: Earl Mountbatten, Mr Bhutto, Airey Neave, *Reveille*, 57 Quangos, 257 in a DC10 in Antarctica, 15 soldiers at Warrenpoint, devolution, 17 Fastnet yachtsmen, Blair Peach, 50 in a tanker explosion at Bantry Bay, 59 in a shot down Rhodesian Viscount, an unknown number in Kampuchea.

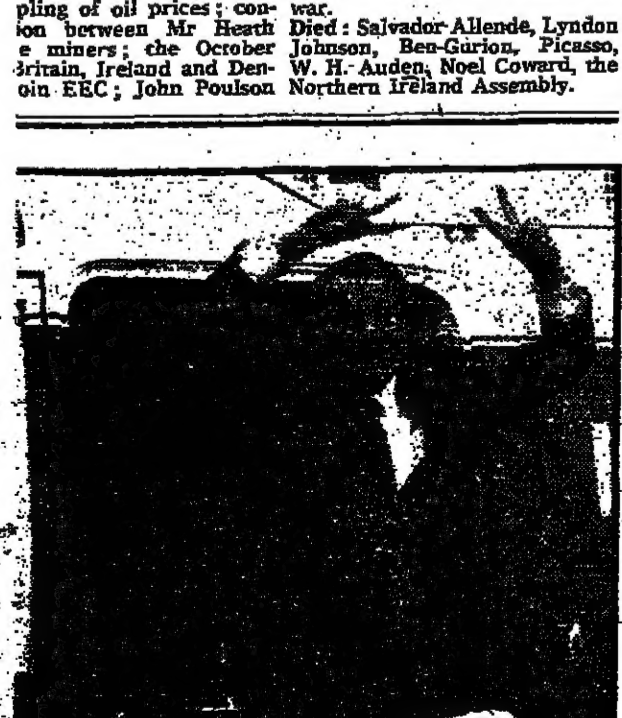
973

Year the Energy Crisis

coupons and the pling of oil prices; con- ion between Mr Heath e miners; the October Britain, Ireland and Den- oin EEC; John Poulson arrested; the last American troops leave Vietnam; Watergate; £20m High Court award to thalidomide children; 238 injured by bombs at Scotland Yard and Old Bailey; Anne marries Mark.

Born: the Northern Ireland Assembly; the three-day week; the oil weapon; the second cod war.

Died: Salvador Allende, Lyndon Johnson, Ben-Gurion, Picasso, W. H. Auden, Noel Coward, the Northern Ireland Assembly.



1974

The Year of Watergate

The resignation of Nixon and his replacement by Ford; bombs at the Boat Show and Madame Tussaud's; stalemate in the first general election, an overall Labour majority of three in the second; Scottish Nationalists hold balance of power; first Greek general election since 1967; essential food prices controlled; over two million unemployed or on short-time in three-day week; Portuguese government overthrown by Spinola; Turkey invades Cyprus; hospital workers refuse to service private patients; collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Born: County of Avon, a son to Ronald Biggs, Sir Walter Walker's private army, republic of Mozambique, the Department of Energy, the social contract.

Died: 29 at Flixborough, 21 in pub bombs in Birmingham, 344 in a DC10 at Paris, County of Rutland, the Pay Board, Georges Pompidou, Richard Crossman, Juan Péron, five in Guildford bomb, Jack Benny.

1975

The Year of the Sieges

Balcombe Street and Spaghetti House sieges; Mrs Thatcher takes the Tory leadership; US evacuates Cambodia; John Stonehouse arrested in Melbourne; first North Sea oil arrives; 11 OPEC delegates captured by Palestinians in Vienna; Apollo links up with Soyuz; UK votes 67.2 per cent to stay in EEC; warrant issued for arrest of Lord Lucan; US unemployment reaches a 13-year peak of 7.1 per cent.

Born: the Helsinki Agreement, Ho Chi Minh City, the National Enterprise Board, the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts, the *Scottish Daily News*, the High Speed Train, republic of Angola.

Died: Chiang Kai-shek, General Franco, Eamon de Valera, Haile Selassie, the Channel Tunnel, Aristotle Onassis, P. G. Wodehouse, 43 Tube passengers at Moorgate.

1977

The Year of the Jubilee

Mrs Ghandhi ousted in Indian elections; Red Rum wins Grand National for third time; Ethiopia helped by Cubans, fights Somalia; pickets fight police at Grunwick Laboratories; Moluccan terrorists hijack a Dutch train; Britain bans herring fishing, and Soviet fishing vessels banned from the North Sea; mass killings reported in Uganda; Sadat visits Israel; violence on National Front marches; Mentmore House sold for £6.3m.

Born: Packer cricket, British Shipbuilders, Skytrain, the Lib-Lab Pact, Concorde to New York, the Boat People.

Died: Steve Biko, 1,200 guerrillas in Rhodesian raids, the Earl of Avon, Archbishop Makarios, Elvis Presley, Anthony Crosland, Maria Callas, Charles Chaplin, 582 air passengers at Tenerife.

1976

The Year of Jimmy Carter

New US president elected with 51 per cent of the popular vote; Britain suffers great drought; world population passes 4,000m; Thorpe resigns Liberal leadership; Israeli commandos snatch 97 hostages from Entebbe; Britain seeks £1,000m IMF loan; bomb at Olympia injures 85; Wilson makes way for Callaghan; Solzhenitsyn predicts imminent fall of the West; Tate Gallery exhibits 120 bricks; £ falls to $1.5710.

Born: the Employment Protection Act, the Northern Ireland Peace Movement; democracy in Portugal, a unified Vietnam, a British postwar unemployment record of 1.5m.

Died: 40 South Africans in Soweto, Mai Tse-tung, Chou En-lai, Viscount Montgomery, Paul Getty, Emil Savundra, Lord Thomson of Fleet, Dames Sybil Thorndike and Edith Evans, 297 Army, police, reservists and civilians in Ulster.

FOREIGN

Jubilant Egyptian troops plant their flag on top of a bunker on the Bar-Lev line east of the Suez Canal during their offensive against Israel in October, 1973.

A Rhodesian soldier watches the Mozambique border for intruding guerrillas during the protracted war in the 1970s.

Africa

Coups, wars and some hope

By Roy Lewis

The collapse in 1974 of the Portuguese Empire, bastion of white-controlled southern Africa, transformed prospects and accelerated continental-wide processes of change. When the seventies began the line of the Zambezi separating the black states from the white-ruled states, and the black states whose fortunes and fate was bound up with them, seemed likely to last for decades yet.

At the same time the black states seemed embroiled with their own internal problems of tribalism, secessionist movements, and political and economic stability. Their efforts to operate regional groupings tended, like the periodic pourparlers of the Organization of African Unity, to be longer on words than action.

The decade began with the ending of the Biafran secession from Nigeria, which presaged a steady growth in the influence of the reunited country with its nationhood and selfconfidence reinforced. This development was progressively enhanced with soaring oil prices from 1973 onwards.

Nigeria suffered from minor coups and from scandals. The disbanding of the Army was prolonged and corruption proliferated, but by the end of the decade it was economically and in population incontestably the African giant, and had effected its transition back to civilian rule under a constitution combining representative institutions with a toughly authoritarian executive.

It is too soon to say that the Nigerian odyssey has set the tone for all black states. The decade was punctuated in almost all of them by coups *and failed coups and complots*; at times it has seemed that the future lay in a congeries of petty caesarisms with even one-party "constitutional" states in the minority. Amin, Macias and Emperor Bokassa seemed only the extreme examples of a type of corrupt military government by junta challenged only by the discontents of the next generation of junior officers.

Ghana's restored democracy led by the moderate Dr Busia was overthrown by a military junta soon to be more corrupt than the regime they supplanted—but by the end of the decade constitutionalism had been resumed. Kenya successfully survived the transition after Kenyatta's death without coups or bloodshed in 1978.

On the other hand, the tendencies in all African regimes to espouse socialism and to embrace anti-westernism noticeable in the early seventies have, for more than one reason, culminated in greatly increased Russian influence throughout the continent. In 1970 Congo-Brazzaville and Sékou Touré's Guinea professed to be full-blown marxist states; now Ethiopia, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Cape Verde and some minor entities have joined them.

Russia has not only been the beneficiary of the Portuguese revolution: it has become dominant in the Horn, after the deposition in Ethiopia of Haile Selassie following the droughts, famines and gathering discontents of the early seventies. No less important, Russia has demonstrated its extraordinary expertise in putting down as well as in engineering guerrilla uprisings.

It used the Cuban military proxies to defeat the two opposition nationalist-tribalist armies in Angola when they nearly reached Luanda. It enabled the Somalis *to seize all south-eastern* Ethiopia in 1976, and then helped the emergent African Stalin, Mengistu, to throw them out again; and when all Eritrea seemed due to fall to marxist rebel forces, the Soviet Union helped Mengistu to crush these with a ruthless efficiency far beyond Haile Selassie's capacity.

As Haile Selassie's constitutional reforms were failing, General Spinola's book *Portugal and the Future* finally sparked off the seething discontent in Portugal. The guerrillas had, by sheer attrition, won an unexpected victory.

Early attempts to create a British-type commonwealth quickly gave way to negotiations which concerned independence on Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Principe. The Portuguese withdrew from Angola as the MPLA, with Russian backing, fought off its rivals, quickly deserted by American and South African backers.

Within a year South Africa had potentially hostile borders on all sides except Rhodesia, and the guerrilla war by Swapo against South-West Africa (Namibia) gathered such force that the homelands plan was abandoned.

Negotiations with the United Nations and Western mediators were haltingly restarted for an independent Namibia, South Africa only holding out for a mixed racial state in which white power should be powerful if not predominant.

Rhodesia's prospects were immediately transformed. The early seventies saw Britain still pursuing a settlement. Lord Alport prepared the ground for Sir Alec Douglas-Home's "last try", which evolved a constitution under which the blacks might achieve majority rule in 20 *years agreed to by the Smith* regime but rejected, in the finding of the Pearce commission, by the blacks under the leadership of the new African National Council led by Bishop Muzorewa.

After 1974 the pace was resumed. Nkomo was released and Smith was again brought to the conference table under pressure of South Africa, with Kenneth Kaunda acting as mediator. The attempt failed, and so did a new conference at Victoria Falls, because the greatly encouraged guerrilla leaders, soon to create the Patriotic Front, demanded power via a one-man-one-vote election immediately.

They backed their demands with deeds. The closing of the Rhodesia-Mozambique border reinforced sanctions and the number of guerrillas in action rose from 90 to 1,000 in eight months. In the following years the war intensified pari passu with attempts to end it by a political settlement before all southern Africa caught fire and the new Russian techniques were extended to it. Smith admitted the war was going badly, General Walls that it could not be won; white emigration leapt.

After abortive talks with Nkomo and Muzorewa, the way was opened by the Kissinger initiative, *preceded by his visits* to the newly so-called "front-line states" in 1976. This "package" involved majority rule in two years with safeguards for white control and security; but the Patriotic Front rejected both timetable and safeguards while Smith insisted on the package as before. A futile conference in Geneva collapsed.

Dr David Owen, Foreign Secretary, then evolved his own Anglo-American plan involving a transitional period of British control, which was upstaged by Smith's agreement with Muzorewa in 1978, granting black rule with white participation and a white veto in Parliament. This arrangement met the five principles, and, after an overwhelming election victory, won Conservative Party endorsement, but got African, OAU, United Nations and Patriotic Front repudiation.

When they took power, the Thatcher Government found they could not resist this pressure; they were left in no doubt of the readiness of Nigeria and other African states to operate a sort of sanctions against Conservative plans for a British economic revival. So at Lusaka the agreement was reached under which the new conference was held which rectified the imperfections in the Smith-Muzorewa constitution and gave Britain temporary sovereign power to supervise the ceasefire and monitor new elections contested by all parties.

South Africa's interest in an orderly and moderate constitutional outcome was not concealed by Pretoria. In South Africa after 1974 plans for independent bantustans were hastened forward after years of dawdling, even including land consolidation, and Transkei was given an independence unrecognized by the world in 1976.

In a succession of elections since 1970 the Nationalists strengthened their parliamentary position, but the Progressive Party rose on the ruins of the "me-too" United Party, and Vorster's prestige foundered under the "Muldergate" scandal. The new Prime Minister, Botha, hastened liberal measures such as legalizing African trade unions in a desperate attempt to regain control over the pace of events.

Thus the decade of the eighties rang up the curtain on the final stand of the South African white laager. The looming question was whether Russian influence would spread even farther, or if the black states, in their new selfconfidence, would resist "imperialism" in a new guise. The French-speaking states, even Guinea, seemed indeed to be strengthening their ties with France and some rapprochement with the West seemed possible as the oil crisis deepened most African states' problems, their dependence on aid of all kinds enhanced by the onset of world depression. But the West had a lot of ground to make up to protect its African interests.

Far East

China and US drawn together

By Richard Harris

In the Far East the great change in the 70s was from hostility and suspicion to friendship and cooperation between the United States and China. This change altered relationships throughout the region as well as in the world power balance. Where once the Cold War had most thrived in the air of Dulles it now, finally, died.

By 1970 the Americans had concluded that China was no longer either a dangerously expansionist power allied to the Soviet Union or the important communist power behind war in Vietnam. By 1970 American public opinion despaired of Vietnam and sought a withdrawal, somehow. Conceivably *Sino-American cooperation* could assure the peace of the region without a continuing American presence.

For their part, the Chinese had suffered serious border incidents with the Russians in 1969. A dangerous confrontation faced China with a militarily far superior neighbour along their difficult frontier. The Chinese were thus more than ready to respond to secret approaches that had begun to link Washington and Peking soon after Mr Nixon's election. With Dr Kissinger's secret visit to Peking in 1971 and Mr Nixon's in 1972 Japan hurriedly switched to recognition of China in the same year. A new quadrilateral of power took shape—the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union—with the European Community in the background.

In 1971 China had been elected in place of Taiwan to the permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. It was expected that it would emerge from the self-imposed isolation of the Cultural Revolution. But China's leadership was still at loggerheads. For all the respect paid by visiting statesmen to the aging Mao or the queue of countries ready at last to recognize the new China, there remained uncertainty in Peking.

Who could fathom the Lin Piao incident? How strong was the growing opposition to Mao? Nineteen seventy-six was the crucial year of revaluation. Chou En-lai died in January. The demonstration on April 5 was the first unconcealed act *of hostility to Mao's leadership*. When Mao died in September and the Gang of Four were arrested in October it was plain that China would turn its back on two decades of damaging Maoist revolution struggle. Since the Cultural Revolution the country had suffered from increasing crime, corruption, factional fighting and strikes. Higher education was almost at a standstill but by the end of the decade a partnership between the newcomer, Hua Guofeng, and the restored Deng Xiaoping had fixed the country's sights on urgent economic growth.

Indo-China, however, remained a problem zone even after 1975 when Kampuchean communist guerrillas took Phnom Penh and Vietnamese communists entered Saigon. At once concealed animosities emerged. Pol Pot's guerrillas had swept into Phnom Penh only to drive out its population with careless brutality. This demonstrated that half-baked Marxists ruling a country totally unfitted for any kind of communist system resulted in tragic slaughter and wanton starvation.

The Vietnamese, who saw themselves as the natural inheritors of French authority in all three countries, were soon in conflict with the Kampuchean nationalist Pol Pot.

A year ago Pol Pot's government was replaced by a powerless puppet regime after a purely Vietnamese military operation. This sharpened a growing conflict with China which had openly backed Pol Pot.

Vietnamese resentment of Chinese domination had deep historical roots. More recently, disagreements dated back to the Geneva conference of 1954. Nor was Kampuchea the only issue. Vietnam's treatment of the overseas Chinese and territorial disputes between the two countries had angered Peking. Hanging over the local resentments was the greater threat to China of Vietnam's close relations with the Soviet Union, sealed by a friendship treaty in 1978. The first blunt answer came with China's 17-day invasion last February followed by threats that the assault might be repeated if Vietnam's hostility to Peking was not curbed.

Faced with this continuing turbulence in Indo-China the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) coordinated their policy towards Vietnam. Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines had all been ready to set up their own relations with Peking while Mr Lee Kwan Yew went to Peking to explain why Singapore could not do the same. Only Indonesia has not yet resumed diplomatic relations with China.

Aside from the serious refugee problems and the continued fighting in Kampuchea near the Thai border which could make for danger in this region for some years to come, elsewhere in east Asia the risks of conflict grew much less in the 70s.

A divided Korea, despite the unexpected assassination of President Park, will only be united by peaceful means. So, too, with Taiwan, now more open than before to Chinese favours, and the unresolved future of Hongkong.

When the 70s began, Japan's rate of economic growth was already astonishing. During the decade the arc of economic progress that runs from Seoul through Japan to Taiwan, Hongkong and Singapore has been more marked than ever. The whole region is one that rebuts the tag of the Third World nor is it one in which the staff of American embassies are every likely to face the treatment they have been getting in Tehran. Undoubtedly, regional consciousness and neighbourly relations matter much more seriously considered now than they were 10 years ago.

Middle East

A trend towards peace

By Edward Mortimer

Three main events have altered the political shape of the Middle East during the 1970s: the October War of 1973, the Sadat initiative of 1977 leading to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979, and the Iranian revolution of 1978-79. Less spectacular, but still of great importance in a historical perspective, was Britain's withdrawal from the Gulf in 1971. That was a classic case of the dog that did not bark: the fact that it was not accompanied by any big upheaval was in its way no less important than the fact that upheaval did occur on the other side of the Gulf eight years later.

There was also the war in Lebanon in 1975-6, costlier in human life than either the Arab-Israeli war or the Iranian revolution, and involving the virtual destruction of Lebanon as a political and social entity. Yet one of the tragic ironies of that conflict is that it has affected the general condition of the Middle East remarkably little. Beirut will never be the same again. But even now it has not really been replaced as the cultural and business centre of the Arab world. In so far as it has been, it is by London and Paris rather than any other Middle East city.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict there can be little doubt that the trend of the decade has been towards peace rather than away from it. The 1970s opened with the acceptance by President Nasser and Mrs Meir of the Rogers initiative for a cease-fire in the War of Attrition, and ended with President Sadat and Mr Begin signing a treaty in the presence of President Carter. The American role has been crucial throughout, and until 1977 American influence in the area increased steadily, while that of the Soviet Union declined. Only Libya, under the maverick Colonel Gaddafi, moved against that trend. In the past two years, however, the ripples of the Iranian revolution, and the turbulence of Arab reaction to the Egyptian-Israeli peace process, have made the course of American policy in the Middle East much harder to steer. But the Soviet Union has not been a direct beneficiary. The new nationalist challenge to American hegemony has not taken a Marxist form, but has been expressed increasingly in religious terms, as a reassertion of traditional Muslim values: a *force that neither superpower* finds easy to cope with.

The main problem faced by successive American administrations has been to reconcile commitment to Israel with the need for good relations with the Arab states, particularly those that export oil. That need has been of increasing concern to the United States during the decade, as American dependence on Middle East oil imports has grown. Even so, American support for Israel may be said to have paid off, in so far as it has convinced most of the Arab states that only through America can they hope to secure Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory.

The October War, though it undoubtedly came as a shock to Americans at the time, helped to increase their influence in several ways. It shook the Israelis from their complacency, making them more aware of their dependence on American support. It greatly increased the confidence of President Sadat, enabling him to make a decisive break with the Soviet Union and to establish a strategic alliance with the United States. And it triggered a significant rise in the price of oil, which, though Americans resented it, made the United States' friends in the Middle East much richer and more influential.

Another feature of the decade has been the emergence of the Palestinian question as the central feature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the growing international acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the instrument through which the problem should be tackled. This is one development to which American policy has had difficulty in adjusting, because of its commitment to Israel and the apparent irreconcilability of PLO and Israeli objectives. The Arab states' endorsement of the PLO as the rightful owner of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (at the Rabat summit of 1974) made it virtually impossible to reconvene the Geneva Middle East peace conference which had met for two days and then adjourned in December, 1973. Dr Kissinger, then Secretary of State, decided simply to ignore the issue and concentrate on bilateral and partial agreements. President Carter, when he took office, made some attempt to entice the PLO into the peace process but had to give up when President Sadat decided to go ahead on his own. The result, reached at Camp David in September, 1978, was a "framework for peace in the Middle East" which so far only Israel and Egypt have accepted.

European Community

The club changes for good

By Michael Hornsby

Throughout the postwar period the impulse towards economic and political unity in Europe has ebbed and flowed. In retrospect it can be seen that the opening of the 1970s was one of the high water marks in the constant flux and reflux of those forces favourable to some kind of federation of Europe.

By the end of the decade the federalist idea was in full retreat on most fronts. Though the emergence of the European Parliament as a power to be reckoned with seemed to counter this trend.

The 1960s were a period of transitional consolidation for the EEC of the Six which saw in particular the establishment of what is still the Community's most ambitious, if much criticized, supra-national venture—the common agricultural policy. It was also a period dominated by the France of General de Gaulle who twice rebuffed applications by Britain to join the EEC club.

By 1969, however, General de Gaulle had been replaced by President Pompidou and a new wind was blowing. This change of mood was expressed in a summit meeting of the Six in The Hague in December of that year. The meeting not only endorsed the opening of entry negotiations with Britain, Ireland and Denmark, but also embraced the concept of economic and monetary union, which had not been envisaged in the Treaty of Rome.

On this high note the 1970s opened. Preparations for economic and monetary union proceeded apace, and in Paris in October 1972 heads of government of the Six and the three members-designate agreed that full economic and monetary union should be in operation by the end of 1980 at the latest. The stages by which this ambitious goal was to be achieved were also set out.

Britain, Ireland and Denmark had already signed a Treaty of Accession in January 1972, and they entered the Community at the start of the following year. It was a time of high confidence. The European economy was buoyant and the long era of Gaullist obstructionism seemed to have given way to a resurgence of faith in the benefits of European cooperation. But this mood was not to last for more than a year or so.

The disappearance of Mr Edward Heath into the political wilderness, and the loss of M Pompidou through death stopped the burgeoning Anglo-French understanding in its tracks. President Giscard d'Estaing barely bothered to conceal his contempt for Sir Harold Wilson and never established a rapport with Mr Callaghan. As the decade ended he was still puzzling over how to handle Mrs Margaret Thatcher's blunt tactics.

Even more important than these clashes of personality was the sudden change in the EEC's economic climate provoked by the Yom Kippur war and the quadrupling of oil prices at the end of 1973. The EEC's economic decline was uneven, and for a time it seemed that the impact of the oil price rises had been exaggerated, but it became clear that there could be no quick return to the sustained high growth of the 1960s.

The EEC came more and more to be seen by the outside world as a protectionist block using its collective economic weight to keep more competitive suppliers at bay. A more hopeful development was the recognition by the Nine that one of the few potential areas for export expansion lay in the markets of the developing countries. This insight was reflected in the innovatory Lomé Convention linking the EEC with more than 50 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

It was against this unpropitious economic backcloth that Britain's first seven years in the EEC were played out. As the 1970s came to an end there was no hiding the profound sense of disenchantment both in Britain and in those members of the original Six such as West Germany and Holland, which had fought hardest for British entry against Gaullist resistance.

In the second half of the 1950s Britain still thought of itself as a world power. It still had the remnants of empire to dispose of, and empire and Commonwealth ties and the "special relationship" with America still excited more British hearts than the idea of a politically united Europe which inspired the EEC's continental founding-fathers. Despite Britain's steady decline in status during the 1960s much of this mental and psychological ballast was carried into EEC membership.

These anachronistic British attitudes were matched by the slowness of the Six, and especially the French, to accept that their cosy little club could never be the same again after the eruption of a large newcomer with economic interests in many cases diametrically opposed to those of the original membership.

This was true not only in agriculture, where Britain's historical reliance on cheap imports ran counter to the experience of the rest of the Community, but also in fisheries and energy.

The failure of repeated attempts at reform of the EEC's demonstrably wasteful agricultural policy was a *Leitmotif* of the decade. The drain on the EEC's financial resources imposed by the cost of farm price support was central to Britain's complaints about the imbalance in its payments to and receipts from the Community budget.

It was the main element in Britain's 1974-75 renegotiation of its membership terms, and as the decade closed was once again preoccupying the EEC to the exclusion of almost everything else.

These problems might have seemed less dominating if Britain's industry, antiquated labour-management relations and low productivity had responded as hoped to the stimulus of EEC membership, but this they stubbornly refused to do.

Even as the EEC was digesting this intractable, and apparently incorrigible new-comer, it was faced with applications for membership from three new countries—Greece, Spain and Portugal. By the end of 1979 only Greece had completed negotiations, and was due to enter the EEC on January 1, 1981.

The establishment of the European Monetary System early in 1979, reflecting a revival of interest in monetary union (the original goal of 1980 having been quickly abandoned), and this year's bid by the first directly elected European Parliament to assert control over the EEC budget, suggested that federalism was not entirely dead.

None the less, the EEC stood on the threshold of the 1980s in a state of greater uncertainty about its future evolution than at any time since its founding.

United States

Chastened by Vietnam and crises

By Patrick Brogan

The spate of articles in American newspapers commemorating the 1970s have concentrated on the earlier years of that decade, which were, after all, much the most exciting: wars, riots, scandals and constitutional crises entertain newspapers and their readers more than do energy shortages, born-again Christian presidents and bicentennial observances.

History does not conform to the decimal system. In a rough sort of way, the last distinct period that could be set aside as a "decade" began with the assassination of President John Kennedy in November, 1963, and ended with the departure of the American Ambassador to South Vietnam from the roof of his Embassy, aboard a naval helicopter, on April 29, 1975.

What a British historian referred to in 1952 as "the illusion of American omnipotence" was still potent in the 1960s. Remember Kennedy's inaugural promise: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."

Things have changed since then. When Jimmy Carter was sworn into the presidency in 1977, he said: "We have learned that 'more' is not necessarily 'better', that even our great nation has its recognized limits, and that we can neither answer all questions nor solve all problems."

The discontinuity turned around America's failure to defend democracy, or at least anti-communism, in Indo-China. It was a crushing defeat for the United States, which had chosen the cause, the battlefield and the weapons. Defeat in South-East Asia was quickly followed by a Soviet offensive in Africa and on the periphery of the Middle East.

There are still, of course, plenty of Americans who believe their country omnipotent. One of Senator Edward Kennedy's slogans in his campaign for the presidency is: "We must not allow foreigners to dictate the price of American oil", and Mr John Connally, one of the leading Republican presidential candidates, says that unless the Japanese mend their ways in matters of trade, "They can sit on the dockside in Yokohama, in their Toyotas, listening to their Sonys and eating their oranges".

The painful experience of the Vietnam war taught most Americans, however, the severe limits to their power to control the world. That experience was followed immediately by the sudden loss of control over their energy supplies in 1973-74. The dollar, which once bestrode the narrow world like a colossus, had already been found to have feet of clay.

A fear was frequently expressed in the mid-70s that the United States defeat in Vietnam would heighten isolationism. These were the years when Senator Mike Mansfield, majority leader, submitted resolutions to the Senate calling for a sharp reduction in American forces in Europe.

The fears proved groundless. Americans of all political persuasions recognized that the United States could no longer hide behind oceans. Mr Carter, who promised to reduce American troops in Korea, was forced by the view he saw from the White House to eat his words.

The crisis in Iran has provoked a resurgence of simple patriotism. The White House calmly announced just before Christmas that studies were under way to set up a "fast reaction force" of 140,000 men which could fly to prepared bases in the Middle East. A suggestion that would have provoked calls to impeach the president five years ago passed unopposed.

The United States has more or less recovered from the traumas of the Vietnam war. It has learnt its lessons, at least for the moment, and would doubtless hesitate to embark upon another war as substantial as that one. The Ayatollah Khomeini may yet learn, however, the limits to American patience.

The years 1963-75 saw the rise and fall of United States black militancy, which reached a paroxysm in 1971, and, of course, the anti-war movement. A few years later, the papers were full of articles asking whatever happened to the student radicals of the movement.

They have become respectable, some are in Congress, many in other branches of government. The spirit of iconoclasm survived to dance away the night of President Nixon's resignation in August, 1977, and then evaporated.

Domestic politics now are wholly defined by economic questions, with the debate between the individual's realization that there is an energy crisis and that there could be a recession, and his own experience that his condition is better than it has ever been.

Five years after the end of the Watergate affair, it still looks like the constitutional crisis of the century. Other presidents twisted the law, some in more serious ways than Mr Nixon: It has recently emerged that President Kennedy condoned unsuccessful assassination plots against foreign leaders. Mr Nixon demonstrated that Presidents can be brought to account for their wrongdoings.

If he had not resigned, he would have been impeached and sent to jail. It will be a long time before one of his successors, misled by the imperial panoply and official obsequiousness that surrounds an American president, will think himself above the law.

The United States, then, entered the second half of the 1970s and continues into the 1980s with a chastened presidency, a more modest foreign policy and a great uncertainty about its economic prospects.

At the same time, it is more united than it has been since 1963 and is therefore ready, rejecting isolationism, to face up to the challenges of the time—whether they come from the Soviet Union or the Third World.

Strategic Arms

Nuclear balance maintained

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

The 1970s opened with the United States and the Soviet Union struggling to find a formula for the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (Salt-1). They end with both governments waiting, and hoping, for the United State Senate's ratification of Salt-2—the treaty which, to use an earlier, heady phrase of Dr Henry Kissinger, should "put a cap on the arms race."

Whether it will ever do that remains to be seen. But its provisions which seek to codify strategic parity by limiting the numbers and to some extent the types of nuclear weapons deployed, at least reflect the arms race of the decade and the directions in which this had led.

Ten years ago the United States had 2,270 strategic nuclear delivery systems (SNDS), and between two and three times as many warheads. The difference in numbers was due only partly to its recent development of MIRV technology, which meant that a number of quite independent warheads covering widely separated targets could be fitted to one missile.

These forces included 1,054 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs); 656 Polaris missiles carried by a fleet of 41 ballistic missile submarines; and between 500 and 600 aircraft, most of which were long-range subsonic B-52s. By 1970 only 10 of the ICBMs were the new Minuteman-3s, each armed with three MIRV warheads, and none of the submarine missiles had multiple independent warheads either. The first MIRV-ed Poseidon missiles did not come into service until 1971.

Continued on opposite page

REVIEW OF A DECADE

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The Soviet Union had about 00 ICBMs, including 240 9s with a yield of more than megatons, and about 50 sub- rines with strategic missiles. only 10 of the boats were ipped with the SSN-6, whose ge of 1,750 miles made it ghly comparable to the 2,880- Polaris. Twenty-five of n were only diesel-electric marines, whose 350-mile missile could be fired only r the boat had surfaced. eover, the Soviet force of aircraft included only 140 -range Bisons and Bears e the others were medium e Badgers.

here was already concern t the strategic balance, and concept of parity was estab- d. But American techno- al superiority was clear for o see. Soviet ICBMs were er, but less accurate than American equivalents. More- the vast multiplication of eads promised by the ual introduction of MIRV- persuaded the Americans to the 1972 Salt-1 treaty— h actually allowed the Rus- to deploy more missile ms than the United States.

t the Americans under- ated the determination of Russians to catch up, and speed with which they do so. This is not immedi- apparent from the aggre- figures published by the national Institute for egic Studies in *The Mili- Balance 1979-80*. These that while the number of t SNDs now stands at compared with the Ameri- otal of 2,142, the Russians still only 5,000 warheads st the American figure of)—although the Russian is scheduled to rise to in a few years' time.

Soviet land-based ICBMs include systems like the SS-18s and SS-19s which ot only carry multiple war- but which have an acy comparable with that 550 Minuteman-3s. (The has a reported accuracy ft.) And being larger, they rry more warheads.

eover the Russians now 650 SLBMs in 64 sub- es, and Delta-3 boats , with the SSN-18 5,000- MIRV missiles are rolling Russian slipways at a rate disturbs Congress. The cans have by contrast only ubmarines carrying 496 ons and 10 which are still ed with Polaris—although 00-mile Trident-1 missile e deployed in the 1980s.

so to Salt-2. If it is ever d it will limit each side to of 2,250 systems and will have a number of sub- s: 1,320 for MIRV-ed s and bombers carrying missiles (120 B-52s are be converted to carry ; 1,200 for land and sea- missile launchers and 820 RV-ed land-based systems. are also other provisions ing a limit on "heavy" s, although the Russians allowed to fit MIRVs on 308 that they have at t.

1 was a treaty between re and the tortoise. Now re has woken up and is anxious than he probably e not to make the same e twice. It has been that arms race that the 1970s een.

he other hand it is argu- hat what is remarkable the balance in 1979 is not has changed so much, but has changed so little. ncern reflected by Con- s in sharper focus now. still covers the same area erosion of American stra- uperiority over the Soviet

e is still a balance, which s manageable. Perhaps ef reason for this is that ne two superpowers still t in place, despite the of change blowing from st which at one time ned to upset its equili- Perhaps the most com- reason for early ratifi-cation of Salt-2 is the need to avert the proliferation of nuclear weapons which could follow in the 1980s if the super- powers continued to place bigger and better weights on the scales.

HOME

Northern Ireland

Hopes fade, targets change

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

In 1970 a curfew was imposed for three hateful nights in Falls Road; the Ulster Defence Regiment was officially born; and the notorious B-Specials were deservedly scrapped.

Every year since then the headlines have carried a grisly message ofe violence, political failure and dashed hopes. Except for the passionately dedicated, the war has become a matter of confusion, anger and dazed acceptance.

The IRA had taken to the streets as an undisciplined and violent reaction to years of social injustice during which the normal political institutions demonstrably failed to give voice to the aggrieved. But the street army has moved on, and if it chooses to have another decade of sophisticated violence it has the means and ability to do so.

The Provisional IRA has developed a deadly cunning, a military discipline and prowess that mean a few hundred murderers can keep 13,000 regular soldiers and 7,500 part-timers fully occupied. Militarily it cannot be defeated; only by draconian security measures could the violence be held down to what the Army prosaically calls acceptable levels.

It is almost 10 years since the first soldier was shot; in about a month it will be the tenth anniversary of the first soldier shot dead. In six months it will be 10 years since 300 people were rounded up and interned; and in two years Bloody Sunday, when 13 people were shot by security forces in Londonderry, will be 10 years old.

For most of the past decade Ulster has been administered directly from Westminster. The 26 local councils have power only over the mundane and the unimportant, which stifles the ambitious and the clever.

And the decade ends with 2,000 dead because of the war. Their ghosts haunt this place and sometimes the voice of peace shouts louder than that of violence. But the legacy of Tone, Emmet, Pearse and Connolly drives the IRA on as Belfast slams its doors and draws its curtains each night.

The IRA's tactics have changed abruptly in the past few years. The horrible bombings of crowded places, with the death and maiming of thousands of innocent people of both communities, have ended. The targets now are carefully selected, and executed with cold-blooded efficiency.

Civilian deaths are down to one of their lowest levels of the decade; military deaths are this year the highest since 1972, which was a year of unprecedented violence in which 146 members of the security forces and 336 civilians were shot or bombed to death.

The Peace People swept in with their message of hope in 1976, enjoyed several heady months on the front pages, gradually slipped down to page four and finally passed out of the limelight altogether. IRA ceasefires have come and gone, just like the political initiatives.

Embattled Belfast children in a fearful wasteland.

Sunningdale, the power-sharing executive, the crippling "strike" by "loyalists" of 1974; it is all a part of history as the fighting continues. And as the politicians prepare for another constitutional conference an average of four people a week are dying.

The deprivation in parts of Belfast is frightening. Anybody who feels like risking a drive through Turf Lodge, Whiterock, Ballymurphy or the Lower Falls district cannot avoid being moved. There, fear is the master.

The working-class Roman Catholics and Protestants have drawn strict boundary lines during the 1970s. You can tell whose territory you are in by reading the slogans.

But wherever you are the scene is the same: relentless rows of centuries-old terraces, some of them bombed and bricked up; Army vehicles everywhere; barbed wire and great walls of corrugated iron protecting vital installations; roads strewn with bricks and stones that have been hurled a thousand times at military vehicles. Hope, tragically, is in short supply.

The Irish struggle began centuries ago; the IRA is merely 60 years old. Though based on the experience of deprivation and an emotional commitment to republicanism and Irish unity, it tried with limited success during the latter part of the dying decade to develop a greater theoretical and intellectual base.

But political thinkers will never dominate the gut feeling for an Irish Ireland, Gaelic and free, which goes back to the Middle Ages. But in that context, there can be no prospect that the revolutionary torch will be extinguished in the 1980s.

Terrorism

A monster comes of age

By Dan van der Vat

Terrorism, murderous offspring of the late Sixties, became a full-grown monster and went international in the Seventies, ending the decade as an acknowledged instrument of government policy and thus taking its place alongside war as an extension of diplomacy.

The students who overran the American Embassy in Tehran and took 50 hostages enjoy the open backing of the Ayatollah Khomeini, head of the theocratic, Islamic republic in Iran. For years before that, the Libyan head of state, Colonel Gaddafi, was openly funding terrorist groups in several parts of the world from his oil revenues.

Terrorism has always been with us. Ancient Romans had to contend with it in Juddaea just as modern Italians do in their own country and Israeli descendants of the Judaeans in theirs. The new terrorism is different in two crucial respects: its international character and its exploitation of "instant" modern communications for both movement and publicity.

Thus Carlos Ramirez, a rich Marxist malcontent from Venezuela, turned up in London to shoot a leading Jewish businessman, Sir Marcus Sieff, in the face, on behalf of the Palestinians. The abduction of European bankers and diplomats in Central and South America led to huge, rambling advertisements in Spanish in Britain's national press.

Japanese gunmen mowed down passengers at Lod airport in Israel in the Palestinian cause; Germans and Irish went to the Middle East for training in the most economical methods of indiscriminate slaughter; guns stolen from American Army bases in Germany were used to shoot down Italian politicians; and German terrorists on the run sought refuge in south Yemen, Yugoslavia and a mechanics' training centre in London.

Terrorism became both a multinational industry and an equal-opportunity employer. Lelia Khaled was among the first of her sex to become an international figure by terrorizing the innocent when she helped to hijack a British airliner which was later blown up at Dawson's Field in Jordan.

But the oddest and most notorious woman terrorist to command the headlines in the seventies was surely Ulrike Meinhof, the West German who learned her ideals at the knee of her highly intellectual foster-mother and turned terrorist when her best efforts to change West German society by high-quality journalism and public protest failed to produce the results her romanticism thought they should. She committed suicide in 1975.

Two distinct varieties of terrorism emerged during the period. One relates to external targets and can reasonably be called "cause" terrorism. This would cover the Palestinians, who want to drive the Israelis from what they regard as their exclusive homeland; the IRA, who seek to expel the British from the residual corner of Ireland they still "occupy"; the South Moluccans, who want the Dutch to persuade the Indonesians to let them have independence; and the Patriotic Front, who set out to depose the racial minority in Southern Rhodesia from their monopoly of power.

The other is internal or "protest" terrorism. This covers the Latin Americans, who use terror as a weapon against dictators difficult to distinguish from themselves in their methods; the West Germans, Italians and Turks, who want to save their respective societies by destroying them; and the feeble Angry Brigade in Britain, whose impenetrable pseudo-revolutionary gobbledygook suggested inchoate aims to save Britain from itself by dismantling it with high explosive.

One of the more frightening spectres of the past decade has been that the two motives were fused into a worldwide freemasonry of the bullet, the bomb and the booby-trap.

The international community was slow to respond but eventually managed to force changes of tactics on the terrorists. Hijacking is now relatively unheard of. After initial disasters like the Munich massacre of 1972, the West Germans scored a brilliant success with their special anti-terror commando at Mogadishu five years later, while the Dutch Marines learned how to storm a train.

One nightmare failed to come true: nobody was able to use nuclear blackmail to further the ends of terrorism. There may be a much worse story to tell at the end of the eighties.

Education

Much talk, little progress

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The 1970s marked an unsettled period of transition in education, sandwiched between a period of growth, confidence, and experimentation in the 1960s, and a period of contraction and severe economic constraint as we move into the 1980s.

Primary school rolls began to fall sharply soon after the decade began. Hundreds of schools closed. Teachers had to retrain or be made redundant.

Parent power, which was to be such a feature in the 1970s, turned its attention first to save the grammar school, then to save the local village school, and now, at the end of the decade, to save the popular comprehensive school.

In secondary schools, rolls continued to rise until 1979, but their confidence was sapped early in the decade by a flood of disillusioned criticism that came first in the form of the so-called Black Papers, and then in the Great Debate, initiated in 1976 by Mr James Callaghan, then Prime Minister.

Standards are falling: back to basics, was the cry. In fact, there is little evidence to show that standards were falling. However, the rapid increase in the 1960s in the proportion of pupils passing O and A levels levelled off in the 1970s, and the proportion which chose to go into higher education actually fell from 13.5 per cent to about 12 per cent.

Comprehensive schools, which by the end of the 1970s accounted for more than 85 per cent of secondary school pupils compared with one third at the beginning, were held responsible for the claimed decline in standards, with their alleged "trendy" teaching methods and mixed-ability classes, lack of discipline, and concentration on the backward child at the expense of the able child.

Schools and teachers were badly shaken by the criticisms. Some good innovatory work was stopped. Some bad practices continued, because no one was quite sure where the accusing finger was being pointed. Much of the advice and evidence from research was confusing and contradictory. A few good schools battened down the hatches and continued on their enlightened voyage while the storm raged around them.

The recent Schools Inspectorate's report on secondary schools shows how mistaken much of the criticism was. Schools were if anything too traditional and too disciplinarian rather than too progressive.

The decade has seen a lot of talk; a steady stream of surveys, inquiries, studies, and reports; and much superficial activity and upheaval. Yet underneath, there appears to have been little fundamental change, just external accretions such as the addition of an extra compulsory year of schooling in 1973, and a wealth of new courses and examination syllabuses.

From the beginning, there were discussions about the continued existence of the independent schools, the reform of the examination system: the curricular needs of the bottom half of the ability range; the training and retraining of teachers. Everything still remains to be settled.

But the talk, and even the nervous feeling of uncertainty that it produced, has not been altogether in vain. The very process of questioning and self-examination has been salutory. But now the schools are longing for a period of stability and consolidation, and they are not going to get it.

The 1960s were unjustifiably optimistic; the 1970s unjustifiably pessimistic. The danger is that deep and largely unplanned spending cuts, combined with the effects of sharply falling secondary school rolls, will further damage an already low morale and will impede new developments to such an extent that teachers and administrators could begin to give up, and we would see a return to a narrow, vocational schooling.

The signs are already there. Schools are to be made more accountable by proving their worth in terms of examination results. Universities are being cut back. Science, technology, and other courses designed to contribute to the economy are "in"; learning for learning's sake appears to be "out".

Government, while paying lip-service to local authority freedom, seems to be taking a tighter and tighter grip on the reins. A nationally-determined "core" curriculum will almost certainly be introduced. A national policy for higher education could well follow.

Air travel

Laker's big impact

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

For aviation and space, the 1970s were the decade when costs arrested the march of technology.

Wide-bodied airliners were just coming into service with the airlines as the period opened, offering twice the number of seats compared with the aircraft they were replacing, lower operating costs and the prospect of lower fares.

But the prospect was obscured by the 1973-74 oil crisis, which raised airline fuel costs by up to 300 per cent within 12 months. Sir Freddie Laker, however, remained undaunted by the gloom that trend produced throughout the rest of the airline industry.

He brought to a successful conclusion his seven-year battle for acceptance of his cheap, no-bookings Skytrain service across the North Atlantic. The impact on the entire airline industry was far-reaching. The main operators with services to the United States were forced to match Laker's fares on their scheduled services.

The charter end of the industry evaporated almost overnight and the International Air Transport Association, the fare-fixing body to which all the big scheduled carriers belonged but, needless to say, Laker did not, had to reconsider its regulations and, indeed, its whole framework.

It could have been only coincidence, but shortly after the Laker "revolution", the Carter Administration in the United States embraced the principle of aviation deregulation, the policy that any airline can fly anywhere it wants, charging any fare.

The result was that in spite of the rise in costs produced for the airlines by the oil crisis early in the decade, fares have marked time in real terms so that the travelling public has been able to pick up travel bargains.

But as the decade closes, new and possibly even heavier cost increases affect the airlines as the Opec nations put up the price of oil once more. Whereas in 1973 aviation was paying about 14 US cents a gallon for kerosene, today the average price is 85-90 cents, and on the spot market it has already gone as high as $1.30 in some parts of the world.

While the advent of the jumbos was ushering in the era of cheap, mass travel (and the era of the massive air disaster, with more than 500 killed when two 747s collided on the runway at Tenerife), there were also significant developments at the elite end of the market.

Concordes came into service with British Airways and Air France, linking Europe with North America in three and a half hours.

In the early 1960s the same journey could take 17 hours.

But once again costs overcame technology. Although Braniff and Singapore Airlines signed leasing deals, no one else wanted to buy such an expensive "gas guzzler" and the assembly lines at Bristol and Toulouse, laid down with such heady enthusiasm a decade earlier, were quietly taken up.

In civil aviation the 1970s will also be remembered as the decade of the hijack, with extremist groups from all parts of the world using the publicity that inevitably attaches to an attack on aviation to further their often obscure causes.

Tighter security at airports has almost eliminated the practice, but the security is paid for by the passenger with a surcharge averaging £1 on every ticket bought.

Environmental groups attacking the aviation industry on the ground of noise and the waste of financial and land resources were another phenomenon of the 1970s. Although they were generally less militant, people were killed during protests against the siting of the new Tokyo international airport at Narita.

In space the Americans, having put a man on the moon at the end of the 1960s, flinched from the enormous cost of keeping up the race. No such constraints worried the Russians and in November, 1978, two of their cosmonauts set a record for endurance in an Earth orbit of 139 days.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union made enormous advances with satellite technology during the decade, so that it is now as simple to dial a wrong number to Sydney, Australia, from central London as it is to SW1. Faced with technical difficulties, the Americans put off until 1981 the first launch of their space shuttle, the Earth-orbit vehicle that in two decades could reduce the London-Australia travel time from 30 hours to three.

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...lcolm Brown

...970s was the decade in energy became political. oved from an era in oil supply was deter- by multi-national cor- ns which paid little o the needs of their oil- host countries to one ich the oil producing themselves assumed over this scarce but al natural resorce.

the preceding decade 0) the price of oil had ed stable, scarcely ever from $1.80 a barrel compares with $24-$30 the meeting of the ation of Petroleum ing Countries in Caracas onth). As late as 1972 Faisal of Saudi Arabia arning of the folly of oil as a weapon against est; America could sur- ithout it and the cut in Arab states' export es would hamper the campaign against Israel. came the Yom Kippur d the Arabs drew the apon from its scabbard reaten the industrial

the closing months of oil prices quadrupled, aneously sending shock through the world's ed industrial economies ompletely altering the of power between the oducing and the oil con- nations.

in became an oil pro- in the Seventies. The orth Sea oil was brought in 1975. The country be self-sufficient in oil middle of next year, though much of it will be exported.

As the decade ends the British are about to restart once more the debate about nuclear energy. The arguments over the harnessing of nuclear power to make electricity have ricocheted across Europe and America for the past 10 years, raising the emotional temperature in each country as potential power was weighed against possible hazards. The burning out of the reactor at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, in March this year and the impact of the film, *The China Syndrome*, which described just such an incident have made many people wary of nuclear power.

What lessons are there for the Eighties? One, above all, should have been learned; but it is a lesson which we all seem loath to take on board. Simply put, the governments of the West, while recognizing the scarcity of energy resources, particularly oil, are reluctant to place the matter plainly before their peoples.

It is one thing to make speeches exhorting the people to conserve energy; it is quite another to take practical steps to ensure that conservation does take place when exhortation has patently failed. Our continued profligacy with oil products simply cannot continue and as long as politicians allow it to go on they are not taking the energy crisis seriously.

International Finance

The dollar finally dethroned

By Hugh Stephenson

Harry Dexter White and John Maynard Keynes were respectively the American and the British intellectual architects of the post-war monetary system, put together a Brethon Woods, New Hampshire in 1944. If they had met together in some monetary Valhalla in 1970 they could have been forgiven for thinking that their work had well withstood the test of time.

True, international capital markets were becoming significantly more volatile. The 1967 devaluation of sterling had been seen by some as the breach of the first line of defence for the dollar as the world's pivotal currency. There had been two years of periodic Franco-German currency turmoil. And, there were the worries, expressed by Henry Fowler, the American Secretary of the Treasury, that the international reserve system might be underminnd if the private market price fell below the official $35 an ounce.

All in all, however, their system was holding. What is more it had shown its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The technical work had already been done on introducing "paper gold"—the International Monetary Fund's own Special Drawing Rights—as a central asset and unit of account for the rest of the system.

What was more, a sensible discussion was under way at all levels about the desirability of moving away from rigidly fixed exchange rates, though the theoretical and practical arguments as between "free floating" and "managed floating" were still a long way from resolution.

If, however, the two friends and protagonists are surveying the scene from above this New Year, their mood must be very different. For in the past 10 years their system has shattered. The 1970s in short saw the dethroning of the dollar from the splendid central position given it at Bretton Woods. It also destroyed the hope that the IMF would steadily grow in its role as the central bank to the world.

The shape of the problem is clear enough. For a quarter of a century after the devastation of war, the rest of the world was prepared to enjoy the fruits of a dollar dominated system, which effectively meant that the United States was outside the constraints and disciplines which applied to other currencies and economies.

Nuclear scare at Three-Mile Island.

In a closed system, if West Germany and Japan and others liked to enjoy a miracle of economic expansion, while at the same time insisting on a balance of payments surplus, someone had to provide the deficits. The United States and the dollar in effect financed those 25 years of unparalleled prosperity for the Western industrial world.

But in the 1970s the confidence trick broke. Inflation was the bugbear and there were too many dollars around. Vietnam allowed the French and others to give dollar imperialism a bad name. After the 1973-74 oil price explosion, huge dollar balances ended up in the new Arab hands. The vast offshore dollar market, which was only in embryo in 1970, added all the extra instability of a market made for speculation.

If the shape of the problem is clear, the solution is less so. The aim is easy to define. Because of the past 35 years there are now more dollars in international circulation than are wanted. The dollar has taken on, or been given, a much larger share of the role of being a world reserve and trading currency than is justified by the size of the American economy.

Since 1945 Europe and Japan and others have restored the real economic and industrial balance. This shift has not been reflected in international finance. It is clear, therefore, that whether they like it or not (and after the experiences of sterling and the dollar most do not) other currencies like the German mark, the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen will have to take on a more appropriate share of the world reserve currency role.

So far as the dollar is concerned the analysis must lead to the conclusion that, since there are too many dollars, dollars must be taken off the market. This means that either the United States, or the IMF, or some other new institution, must offer holders of unwanted dollars the chance to change them into something else which they prefer. The logic is clear. The problem as always is the lack of political will. Politicians in the United States and elsewhere have been ready enough to agree on the ends. They continue to show, however, a fully equivalent unwillingness to will the means.

The Economy

Worse than our partners

By David Blake

No one should predict the 1980s. The appalling example of those who forecast the shape of the 1970s should be warning against doing that.

As the seventies opened there were many who believed that they could detect a real change in our economic fortunes. Writing on January 1, 1970, the then Chancellor, Mr Roy Jenkins, said that the prospects facing the country were more encouraging than for many years.

How did the false dawn of 1970, when the Government ran a surplus on its budget and Britain had a surplus on its foreign payments, give way to the reality of the 1970s, with previously unheard of inflation rates, unemployment levels which would have been dismissed as inconceivable in the immediate postwar years and a growing feeling that our industrial base was in danger of withering away?

Much of the answer lies in the world economic crisis which has caused higher unemployment and inflation everywhere; but our performance has been significantly worse than that of any other major industrial country.

After a slightly uncertain start the early 1970s were marked by a short, but very sharp, boom. Output increased everywhere, with even the United Kingdom registering the quite astonishing increase in real output of 8 per cent in 1973.

But the boom contained the seeds of its own destruction. Inflation rose everywhere as wages went up sharply and commodity prices soared. Although western countries now tend to blame all the problems of recent years on the decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), to increase oil prices in 1973, that price increase was just the culmination of inflationary trends already threatening to break down the system.

By 1974, western industrial nations faced a combination of stagnation and inflation, two evils which had never really occurred before. In Britain the inflation was particularly severe; prices were rising at well over 25 per cent a year in the middle of 1975.

Even tight and initially successful incomes policies failed to bring the inflation rate down below 10 per cent until 1978, a success which turned out to be short-lived. The pay restraint policy broke down and inflation shot up.

The domestic inflation of 1976 was followed by the external sterling crisis of 1976; and, although in retrospect the crisis was clearly overdone, there is no doubt that the two problems, inflation at home and a flight from the pound abroad, produced a fundamental change in the attitude of most ordinary people and policy-makers to the running of the British economy. The mid-1970s were the time when belief in the inevitability of prosperity disappeared from Britain.

For the past five years no government has been able to promise fast growth or even full employment. Instead, they have concentrated with varying degrees of success on bringing down inflation first, as something which must be done if the basis for future growth is to be laid.

In doing this, two main strands have emerged as common ground between the two main parties when in government, though the consensus shows signs of fraying under the strains of opposition. The first is the need to keep tight control of the money supply in order to hold down the amount of inflation which the system can finance. The Conservative Government's commitment to this is a change of degree from the stance of its predecessor, rather than a complete switch of direction.

The second thrust has been a feeling that something has to be done to help the "productive" sector of the economy, which is sometimes interpreted as being industry and sometimes as being the private sector as a whole. Public spending on goods and services has been declining continuously as a share of total national output since 1975: and there has been increasing emphasis on the need to cut income tax, thus restoring the incentive to work.

The big issue of the 1980s will be whether these policies can actually get the inflation rate down to acceptable levels and restore some real growth in the economy. Even the most optimistic would have to admit that the going will be tough for our industrial and manufacturing base has not simply stagnated during the seventies: it has declined.

In 1973 the British car industry produced nearly two million vehicles; this year its output will be little more than half that. Well over half the domestic market now goes to imports.

Steel, the backbone of any industrial nation, produced 28 million tons in 1970; this year it will produce 21.5 million tons and very large cutbacks are on the way.

Nothing seems to have been able to stop this decline. Industrial intervention and competition have both been tried without any apparent success. Membership of the EEC seems to have provided no assistance. North Sea oil has provided a respite for our balance of payments but may have speeded up the decline of other industries.

Bridge

Great competitions

At the termination of the World Olympiad, held in New Orleans during the last fortnight of June, the American Contract Bridge League generously sent to me a massive collection of the bulletins issued daily throughout the pairs competitions, the Ladies' Team championship and the Teams-of-four competition.

Since anyone was eligible to compete who had been nominated by his country's Bridge organization and had not recently played for another federation, it was not surprising to find that the skills of the competitors were unequal. Their outstanding quality was endurance, and the Brazilians who were beaten at the winning post in the *Sunday Times* Pairs tournament shone as brightly as any other stars, winning the Open Pairs and coming second in the Teams. The small British contingent put up a disappointing performance. In the Open Pairs we had not a single survivor when the original 196 had been reduced to 40 pairs for the final four sessions. Those who came nearest to success were Sally and Tony Sowter of Nottingham who achieved sixth place in the Mixed Pairs.

As you will expect, the standard of play was at times exceptionally high; I consider that the opening lead found by the Brazilian champion Gabriel Chagas displays remarkable deductive skill in a difficult situation. He and his regular partner Pedro Assumpcao were top qualifiers in the Pairs over six sessions, but were reduced to 28th place in the final owing to one bad session. The victory went to two younger Brazilians, Gabino Cintra and Marcelo Branco who had previously been overshadowed by the older masters.

In the following deal East was Chagas.

East West game: dealer East.

North: ♠ Q 9 8 4 ♡ A K 8 4 3 ◇ 9 8 ♣ K 4

West: ♠ 10 8 7 5 3 ♡ Q 7 ◇ Q 3 2 ♣ 9 5 2

East: ♠ — ♡ 9 5 2 ◇ A 10 7 5 4 ♣ J 10 7 6 3

South: ♠ A K J 2 ♡ J 10 6 ◇ K J 6 ♣ A Q 8

East	South	West	North
No	1 Club	No	1 Heart
No	3 No trump	No	4 Spades
No	6 Spades	No	No
No			

The problem facing East was the opening lead which would enable his partner to take two tricks, because East could not expect to win more than the ◇A. Chagas concluded from the bidding that North South must be very strong in hearts and clubs; so the most he could expect in West's hand was a trick in trumps and possibly the ◇K or ◇Q. He therefore undealed his ◇A; declarer naturally played dummy's ◇J which lost to the ◇Q and East made his ◇A. West later came to a trick in spades.

In teams-of-four matches the bidding and play approximate more closely to rubber bridge than the tactics we find in Pairs contests where, as in my example above the player on lead searches for a defence which is unlikely at another table, and the declarer may be expected to have opened on a minimum holding. However valuable an early attack on as few as 10/11 points can be, as the winner of one Pairs competition proclaimed, it is not the basis of sound bidding in a Teams contest.

There was a surprise victory for Poland in the final of the Teams Championship and an unexpected defeat for Brazil. I thought that the deal below shows excellent judgment by both pairs of Polish players who were engaged in a close struggle with the Brazilians.

East West game; dealer North.

North: ♠ 6 3 2 ♡ Q 5 ◇ A K Q 7 ♣ Q 9 5 4

West: ♠ A J 10 ♡ K J ◇ J 10 5 3 ♣ J 10 8 7

East: ♠ 8 5 4 ♡ A 10 9 8 6 4 ◇ 9 6 2 ♣ 6

South: ♠ K Q 9 7 ♡ 7 3 2 ◇ 8 4 ♣ A K 3 2

North	East	South	West
1 Diamond	No	1 Spade	No
1 No trump	No	3 No trump	No
No	No		

The Brazilian champion's Chagas and Assumpcao were North South in the open room, and bid as if they were engaged in a Pairs contest. As the expert commentator recorded: "Everything went normally for a normal result." East led a small heart and the defenders took the first seven tricks, for what was assumed to be an average score.

In the closed room the Poles were helped by their opponents to keep out of a game contract on their 25 points.

North	East	South	West
1 Diamond	1 Heart	1 Spade	1 No trump
No	2 Hearts	3 Clubs	No
No	No		

West led the ♡K followed by the ♡J to East's ♡A. The ♠8 was returned to the ♠K and ♠A, and west led back his ♠J to the ♠Q. At this stage declarer appears to have two more losers—a spade and a Trump, but South overcame this impediment. He cashed the ♣A and ♣K, crossed to the ◇A and took his ♣Q followed by the ◇K and ◇Q. He now had an approximate count of the suit breaks, so he led the ◇7 which he won with his last Trump and played the ♡7. West could either ruff with the better Trump or discard his top spade; so declarer made dummy's last Trump "en passant".

To show how carefully the play of every winning hand was analysed by the "back-room boys", I should mention that they found a more elegant way of making the contract by a three-suit squeeze. This arises if declarer cashes ♣A and ♣Q, his three top diamonds (discarding a spade), and returns to his hand with the ♣K. The ♡7 is led and squeezes West.

Edward Mayer

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

PERSONAL CHOICE

...mes and Frances Tomelty in Gloo-Joo, the play by ... Hastings (ITV, 10.00)

...lm of Vienna Blood shown recently on BBC Television, ...ss opened out, spread over more acres than the ... intended. But the result, paradoxically, was not more ...ut less because, in being forced to travel from A to B ... characters had to be shown doing something en... l what they did was distracting and often unStraussian. ... performance of Die Fledermaus (BBC 2, 6.15) has no ...ling. It is Leopold Lindtberg's production that was ... Covent Garden on New Year's Eve, 1977, and whatever ...were taken—anachronistic jokes and German libretto ...ded quotes from almost as many foreign tongues as ...tained in the Tower of Babel—they did not come ... Strauss and the listener's enjoyment of him. A ...le cast: Benjamin Luxon (as Falke), Kiri Te Kanawa ...inda), Herman Prey (Eistenstein), Hildegard Heichele ...nd Robert Tear (Orlovsky). Zubin Mehta conducts the ... of the Royal Opera

...Godfather? Or Time Machine? Perhaps Jimmy Savile is ... both. Certainly the way he makes children's wishes ..., smacks of pantomime. Equally certainly, he compresses ...of years between expectation and realization and shows ... a short cut. I leave others to assess what effect all ...n a child's psychological make-up. What I am concerned ...e entertainment value of Mr Savile's alchemy in Jim'll ...BC 1, 6.15), and in this respect, I find the programme ...ult. I look forward keenly to seeing Robin Day ...erviewed tonight by a nine-year-old lad from Forest Hill

... like the twist that producer Rosemary Hart has given ...'s extended edition of the nightly arts magazine ...ope (Radio 4, 10.15). She has got Sheridan Morley to ...ne of the programme's contributors questions about ...ch Kaleidoscope has carried during the dying year. ...of shock tactic should sort out the specialist from the ... The clutch of pundits taking part in tonight's Critics' ...adio 3, 5.45) will be given a much smoother ride. In ... 1979, all they need do is pick out their own particular ... that and the other.

...ternoon's Passage to India (Radio 4, 4.40) is not E. M. ... though Mr Forster has gone on record as saying that ... two people whose passage it is—the newly-wed Eliza ...ose letters Julia Keay's radio feature is based—is "a ...geous and gallant (with an) eye and an ear always on ..." The period of Mrs Fay's passage to India is 1779.

...E SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; ...T.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.30 am Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Noel Edmonds's omnibus programme for youngsters, with Lalla Ward (from Dr Who), the very talented draughtsman Tony Hart and John Craven's Newspaper of the Air.
12.12 pm Weather.
12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is:—12.20 Football Focus; Racing from Newbury at 12.50, 1.20, 1.50 and 2.20; 1.10 and 1.40 International Ski-Jumping (from Cortina); 2.40 and 4.00 International Basketball (Philips World Invitational Club Championships); 3.05 Rugby League, Hull KR v Salford; 3.50 Cricket, Australia v West Indies (the second Test).
5.10 Bugs Bunny: cartoon. How Bugs Bunny Won the West.
5.35 News: with Richard Baker.
5.45 Sport.
5.50 Dr Who: part 2 of The Horns of Nimon. Tonight, the doctor is in a whirl.
6.15 Jim'll Fix It: The hardworking Mr Savile makes children's wishes come true. One of them gets a chance to interview Robin Day (see Personal Choice).
6.50 Film: The Pride and the Passion (1957). Spectacular film version of the C. S. Forester novel The Gun, set in Napoleonic times. About some Spanish guerrillas who transport a giant cannon across Spain. With Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra, Sophia Loren.
9.00 Dallas: More about Pam's pregnancy, and J.R. puts a detective on his wife's trail.
9.50 News: with Richard Baker.
10.00 Match of the Day: Action highlights from two of today's First Division games. Also, the goal of the month competition.
11.00 Parkinson: A special edition, devoted to the practice of hypnotism. With Michael Parkinson in the studio are hypnotist Martin St James and journalist Brian Inglis.
12.00 Weather (approximate timing).

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 5.45 pm Sports News. 12.00 News and weather. Scotland: 4.55 pm Scoreboard. 5.45 Scoreboard Round-up. 10.00 Sportscene and the Seventies. 11.30 Parkinson. 12.30 am Close down. Northern Ireland: 5.00 pm Scoreboard. 5.45 News. 12.00 News and weather. England: 12.05 am Close down.

BBC 2

1.20 pm Film: National Velvet (1944). Hollywood version of Enid Bagnold's book about some children who train a horse to win the Grand National. Infinitely better than the boring sequel, International Velvet, made in Britain a couple of years ago. Mickey Rooney and a very young Elizabeth Taylor head the cast. This is what they usually mean when they talk about a family film.
3.20 Play Away: Comedy and music for young viewers. On the boisterous side, maybe, but the cast is bursting its sides to please and frequently does.
3.45 Film: Little Women (1948). Not Cukor's beautifully black and white version with Hepburn as Jo, but Mervyn LeRoy's colour version with June Allyson. A tear-jerker, none the less, with the same musical score that was used in Cukor's film. Also starring Elizabeth Taylor as Amy, Margaret O'Brien as Beth, Janet Leigh as Meg and Peter Lawford as Laurie.
5.45 Cricket: Australia v West Indies. Highlights from the first day's play in the second Test, from Melbourne.
6.15 Der Fledermaus: Repeat showing (we saw it first on New Year's Eve, 1977) of the acclaimed production at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (see Personal Choice).
8.30 News and weather: Sport, too.
9.40 Spirit of Asia: David Attenborough's curtain-raiser to the BBC's ambitious series (same name) which begins on January 13. All about the ancient cultures of south-east Asia that are still alive.
10.00 Our Town: This is an American television production of Thornton Wilder's famous stage play about the changing fortunes of two families in a New Hampshire town at the turn of the present century. The cast includes Ned Beatty, Barbara Bel Geddes, Robby Benson and, in the pivotal role of the Stage Manager, Hal Holbrook.
11.45 News and weather.
11.50 Film: Five Graves to Cairo (1943). Adventure drama about the North African campaign against Rommel in the Second World War. Erich von Stroheim is the definitive Rommel. Also in the cast: Franchot Tone, Anne Baxter, and Akim Tamiroff. The director is Billy Wilder.
1.25 am, Music at Night: The fourth movement—the March of the Three Wise Men—from Liszt's piano suite, The Christmas Tree. It is played by Rhondda Gillespie.

London Weekend

8.40 am Sesame Street: American instructional series for children. With the Muppets (early version).
9.40 The Beachcombers: Canadian outdoor adventure.
10.05 Superman: Predictable adventure yarn, told with no imagination whatsoever.
10.30 Tiswas: Hard-working entertainment show for children. It has a lunatic fringe.
12.30 pm World of Sport. The line-up is: 12.25 On the Ball (Ian St John reviews the past decade); 1.00 Dickie Davies's round-up; 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven. Racing from Newcastle at 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00, and from Leicester at 1.45, 2.15, 2.45, 3.10 Stock Car Racing (The Car Colours/Custom Car Winternationals from Ipswich); 3.50 Half-time football results; 4.00 Wrestling (from Blackburn); 4.50 Results service.
5.05 News.
5.15 Happy Days: comedies set in the 1950s. Today: Potsie Quits School.
5.45 Chips: an adventure story about the California Highway Patrol.
6.45 Sale of the Century: A breezy quiz show, with prizes. The compere is Nicholas Parsons, as polished an MC as you could wish for.
7.15 Search for a Star: another round of this talent contest. The artistes include a trio of singers, a solo comedian, a comedy duo and a solo singer.
8.00 Film: Murder by Natural Causes: (1978). Movie, made for television, about a woman (Katharine Ross) who plots her husband's murder. There is one difficulty—he is a mind-reader. Hal Holbrook (the Stage Manager in Our Town on BBC 2 at 10.00 tonight) is the husband.
9.45 News and sport.
10.00 Gloo-Joo: Michael Hastings's stage comedy—a big success in London recently—about an illegal immigrant in Britain (Oscar James, in his original stage role) faced with the threat of being sent back to his native Jamaica.
11.45 The Ryder Cup 1979: Some of the best moments from last September's Ryder Cup matches played in West Virginia. Many famous golfing stars will be on view—Trevino, Irwin, Ballesteros, Jacklin, among them.
12.45 am Christmas Pie: Schoolchildren put their feelings about Christmas into words. The programme is called Happiness Rules—OK, which neatly summarizes the whole thing.

FILMS ON TV

by David Robinson

With two dozen films between the three channels, it's another week for careful picking and choosing. Top of the recommendations are two Billy Wilder films: tonight (BBC 2, 11.50) Five Graves to Cairo, with Erich von Strobeim as Rommel in a taut and gripping desert war drama; and on Monday (BBC 2, 10.40) Sunset Boulevard, again with Strobeim, as the faithful retainer and friend of Gloria Swanson's old silent star, crazed but still magnificent. It is a Stroheim week: he appears again, in one of his finest later roles, in Jean Renoir's great anti-war classic La Grande Illusion (New Year's Day, BBC 2, 11.10), in which he plays an aristocratic officer of the old school put in charge of a prison camp and disillusioned by the new styles of War.

Meet Me in St Louis (Monday BBC 1, 2.05) is still the most enchanting of all MGM and Judy Garland musicals. Other musical offerings are the awful The Singing Nun (Monday, BBC 2, 3.55), with Debbie Reynolds as the true-life Belgian top-of-the-pops sister. Words and Music (Wednesday) BBC 1, 6.55) is a very respectable 1948 biopic about Rodgers and Hammerstein with guest appearances by artists like Gene Kelly, Judy Garland and Lena Horne), Paint Your Wagon (Monday, ITV, 5.15) is a lumbering vehicle indeed even with Clint Eastwood and Lee Marvin's "Wanderin' Star".

The children are well provided for. Today there is a double bill of National Velvet (BBC 2, 1.20), made in 1944 and the start of Elizabeth Taylor's career; and Little Women (BBC 2, 3.45), a rheumy-eyed remake, not a patch on Cukor's 1933 original but again with the young Miss Taylor. On New Year's Day there is another junior double bill: a misfiring Italo-American picture Wonders of Aladdin (BBC 2, 2.55) with De Sica as the genie; and the pleasant 1955 adaptation of the Farjeons' The Glass Slipper, with Estelle Winwood as a lovely fairy godmother. This seems to begin on BBC 2 at 4.25, and not as announced by the BBC themselves at 3.25.

The big ones of the week are The Bridge on the River Kwai (tomorrow, BBC 2, 7.15); the genial Murder on the Orient Express (New Year's Eve, BBC 1 8.25) and a fairish thriller The Odessa File (New Year's Day BBC 1, 9.05). Look out too for Nicholas Roeg's mystificatory chiller, Don't Look Now (tomorrow, BBC 2, 10.50).

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News.
6.32 Farming Today.
6.50 Yours faithfully.
7.00 News.
7.10 On Your Farm.
7.40 Today's Papers.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's a Bargain.
8.00 News.
8.10 Sport on 4.
8.40 Today's Papers.
8.45 Talk: Cost of True Love.
8.55 Party Political Broadcast (liberal).
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakaway.
9.50 News Stand.
10.05 Talking Politics Christmas Quiz.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Pick of the Week.†
11.35 International Assignment.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm Money Box.
12.27 The Burkiss Way.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions?
2.00 News.
2.05 Wildlife: listeners' questions.
2.40 Play: The Great Balloon Debate, by Alick Rowe.†..
3.30 Does He Take Sugar?
4.00 News.
4.02 Have You Seen the Dragon?†
4.30 Time for Verse.
4.40 A Passage to India, 1779.
5.25 Aspects of the Fringe (variety from Edinburgh).†..
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs.
6.55 With Great Pleasure.†
7.35 Baker's Dozen.†
8.30 Play: Wilaya 7, by John Kirkmorris.†..
10.00 News.
10.15 Kaleidoscope Quiz.
11.00 Lighten Our Darkness.
11.15 Philip Jones Brass Ensemble.†..
11.45 Play: A Fairy Tale for Freudians.† 12.00 News.
12.15-12.23 am Weather.

VHF
6.55 am Regional news, weather.
7.55 Regional news, weather.

David Daker and Patrick Troughton (Radio 4, 8.30)

Radio 3

6.00 am Cricket: Australia v West Indies.
7.05 Records: Suppé, Johann and Josef Strauss, Hummel, Lehar, Komzak.†
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Hérold, Satie, Horovitz, Villa-Lobos, Khachaturian.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review.†
10.15 Record: Schoenberg (Gurrelieder pt 1—Ozawa).†
11.15 Bandstand.†
11.45 Diversions on record.†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 Piano (Brendel): Liszt, Schoenberg.†
2.00 Interval reading.
2.10 Brendel: Busoni, Brahms.†
3.00 Trio sonatas: Handel.†
3.30 Beethoven (Mass in D—Lehel).†
5.00 Jazz records.†
5.45 Critics' Forum.
6.45 Piano duo: Clementi, Britten, Gallant.†
7.30 Berlin PO/Karajan: Bach, Berg (3 Pieces op 6).†
8.05 Poetry by Paul Hyland.†
8.30 Berlin PO: Dvorak (Sym 8).†
9.15 He Never Went to China: portrait of Arthur Waley.
10.15 Songs (Shirley-Quirk/Ashkenazy): Schubert.†
10.50 Chamber music: Shostakovich (incl Pno Quint—Woodward).†
11.55 News.
12.00-2.00 am Cricket: Australia v West Indies.

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Paddy O'Byrne.† 8.07 David Jacobs.† 10.02 Kevin Morrison.† 12.02 pm Roy Hudd.† 1.02 Stop the World. 1.30-6.00 Sport on 2. Football Special; Racing (Newbury); Test Cricket; Rugby Union; Sports Report. 6.03 Hits of Europe 79. 7.02 Beat the Record. 7.30 The Year's Top Tunes.† 8.30 Semprini Serenade.† 9.30 Big and Special.† 10.02 Hilversum Greets Radio 2. 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Ray Moore. 2.03-6.00 am You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 News. 7.03 Playground. 8.00 Ed Stewart. 10.00 Tony Blackburn. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste.† 2.00 USA Top 30 of 1979.† 4.00 Rock On.† 5.30 It's Rock 'n' Roll.† 6.31 In Concert.† 7.30 Peter Powell. 10.00 Al Matthews. 12.00-6.00 am As Radio 2.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 1.00 pm With Radio 1. 7.30-6.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648kHz, 463m) at the following times:—
6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News about Britain. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peers of the Realm. 8.30 These Musical Islands. 9.00 World News. 9.09 British Press Review. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Science in Action. 10.15 About Britain. 10.30 Matthew on Music. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 News Idea. 11.25 The Week in Wales. 11.30 Canal Mania. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Come Here. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 The House at Pooh Corner. 2.00 Disco Fever. 2.30 Anything Goes. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 5.00 News Summary. 5.02 Saturday Special. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 Off the Record. 9.45 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.00 World News. 10.09 Theatre Call. 10.30 News Idea. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 Jazz for the Asking. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Play of the Week. 1.30 Baker's Half-Dozen. 2.00 World News. 2.09 British Press Review. 2.15 People and Politics. 2.30 Sports Review. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 Command Performance. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Intermezzo. 5.45 Letter from America.

REGIONAL TV

Scottish

As London except: Starts 8.50 am Dynomutt the Dog Wonder. 9.15 Cyrano de Bergerac. 10.05 Mork and Mindy. 5.15 pm Solid Gold Top 20. 5.45 Practice. 6.15 Allan Stewart Tapes. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 Soap.

Channel

As London except: Starts 12.30 pm World of Sport. 5.15 Puffin's Platice. 5.19 Mork and Mindy. 5.50 Survival Special. 12.40 am Weather.

Westward

As London except: 9.30 am Film: Daring Game (Lloyd Bridges). 10.55 Look and See. 11.00 Untamed World. 11.25 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 11.30 Lucan. 12.27 pm News. 5.10 Mork and Mindy. 5.50 Survival Special (River of Sand). 12.40 am Faith for Life. 12.45 Weather

Ulster

As London except: 10.15 am Larry the Lamb. 10.25 The Herbs. 10.35 Chopper Squad. 11.30 Sesame Street. 5.00 pm Sports Results. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Chips.

Anglia

As London except: Starts 9.35 am Play Guitar. 10.05 Kum Kum. 12.40 am Carol for Christmas-Tide.

Grampian

As London except: Starts 9.30 am Sesame Street. 5.15 pm Solid gold Top 20. 12.45 am Seachd Laithean. 1.00 Reflections.

Border

As London except: Starts 9.10 am Helping Hand. 9.35 Play Guitar. 10.00 Solo One. 5.15 pm Tiny Tree. 5.45, Tarzan. 12.40 am Closedown.

ATV

As London except: Starts 9.10 am Helping Hand. 9.35 Play Guitar. 10.00 Clue Club. 5.15 pm Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Chopper Squad. 12.45 am Close.

Yorkshire

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Cartoon. 9.10 Spiderman. 9.30 Logan's Run. 12.45 am Close.

Granada

As London except: Starts 9.30 am Helping Hand. 9.55 Larry the Lamb. 10.05 Lone Ranger Show. 5.15 pm Walt Disney Classics. 5.25 240-Robert. 12.45 am S.W.A.T.

Tyne Tees

As London except: Starts 9.10 am Monkees. 9.40 Animated Classics. 10.35 Man from Atlantis. 5.15 pm Muppet Show. 5.45 Chips. 12.45 am Epilogue.

HTV

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Animated Classics. 10.05 Batman. 5.15 pm Mork and Mindy. 12.45 am Weather. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As General Service except: 5.05 pm. News followed by Report Wales. 5.15 Pwy Fasa'n Meddwl? HTV WEST: As general service.

Southern

As London except: Starts 8.45 am Play Guitar. 9.10 Sesame Street. 5.45 pm Life and Times of Grizzly Adams. 11.45 News. 11.50 Ryder Cup 1979. 12.40 am Weather followed by What a Way to Spend Christmas.

Sunday's programmes

PERSONAL CHOICE

...Lloyd as Shaw's Saint Joan (BBC 1, 7.55)

... dresses up and pretends to be somebody else in ...ilm about the life and works of the Victorian painter ...BC 2, 9.50). Here and there, a camera shot of a house, ..., a river, a loch, and then a statement by Professor ...ell or art historian Malcolm Warner, or Millais's ... Otherwise, this is Millais, Millais all the way, painting ... painting, and with Anna Massey's calm and precise ...telling us no more than we need to know fully to ... the coloured wonders on show. Anita Sterner wrote ...ed the film, and I congratulate her on settling for a ...ormat that has been hallowed by time. I also ...ate whoever it was (producer Kenneth Corden ... who chose the music. It grows organically out of ...ames instead of merely festooning it like so much ...holly.

...t among those who protested that, had Arthur ... adaptation of Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy been ... in one big slice instead of seven small ones, the ...ns of the plot might have been easier to follow. Never ... for thought been more urgently needed. Two chunks ...ght, I think, and that is what we will get—part one ...C 1, 2.40), part 2 on Tuesday. We must now, all of us, ...termined effort to try to understand the process by ...rge Smiley (Alec Guinness, under-playing every ...ractically to the point of its extinction) comes to put ... on the mole who is burrowing away beneath the ...s of the British secret service.

...s far too much good viewing in prospect today. ...ly, the new production of Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan ...55) does not clash with that superior horror story ...k Now (BBC 2, 10.50), but it does make it impossible ... see more than 40 minutes of Bridge on the River Kwai ...15) and you will miss the whole of the Millais film, not ...n an hour or so of Giselle (ITV 9.45), with Nureyev, ...nd Mason. ITV has made things worse by putting out ...ive production of Novello's The Dancing Years at ...e same time (3.15) as the mole hunt on BBC 1. ...ave not even mentioned the choice on radio, which ...eethoven's Ninth conducted by Berstein (Radio 3, ... celebratory feature about Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, ...t 70 (Radio 4, 6.15) and the At Home with Hermione ...Radio 4, 11.15am). How is any discerning listener or ...posed to cope with it all?

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Ragtime: fun with cloth puppets.
9.20 The Sunday Gang: religious entertainment. Includes the story of the Good Samaritan.
9.40 Dinky Dog: cartoon. Abominable Dinky.
9.50 Playhouse: Francesca Zeissl's story Princess Griselda's Birthday Gift (r).
10.20 What-a-Mess: Frank Muir tells his own story about his pet dog.
10.25 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan: songs by Indian couple Jagjit Singh and Chitra Singh.
10.55 Edinburgh Military Tattoo, 1979: Highlights from the big show, including the Royal Navy display team.
12.10 pm A Church to Yourself: New series. Today we visit St Peter's Parish Church in Brighton.
12.25 Christianity Explored: Another new series. An interview with Dr Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury.
12.55 Farming: the farmer's magazine.
1.20 There's no Business like Snow Business: A review of 1979 by weather forecasters Michael Fish, Bill Giles and Jim Bacon.
1.45 News headlines.
1.50 The World About Us: Feature about underground animals, including false scorpions, "water bears", that are essential to us (r).
2.40 Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy: the celebrated thriller, by John Le Carré, now made up into two generous parts (part 2 on Tuesday). See Personal Choice.
5.00 Emu's Broadcasting Company (EBC1): Includes a one-minute version of Hamlet.
5.25 The Old Curiosity Shop: part 4 of William Trevor's nine-part adaption of the Dickens novel. Today: Quilp continues his search for Little Nell and her grandfather.
5.55 News: with Richard Whitmore.
6.05 Holiday: New series. Items on a coach tour through Scotland, a ferry trip to the Continent and a seashore-and-safari holiday in Kenya.
6.40 Songs of Praise: from Stonelaw Church, Rutherglen.
7.15 The Lennie and Jerry Show: comedy-and-song programme with Lennie Bennett and Jerry Stevens. With Arthur Lowe and Welsh singer Iris Williams.
7.55 Saint Joan: Shaw's great play, with Gabrielle Lloyd as the Maid. A distinguished cast includes Richard Pearson, Bernard Lee, Bruce Purchase, Peter Benson, Jeremy Kemp, Norman Rodway, Stephen Murray and Roland Culver. A break for the weather forecast at 9.25.
10.50 The Last Right: This Everyman film poses the question. Is a man paralysed from the neck down entitled to end his own life? Includes an interview with actor Tom Conti who played such a victim in Whose Life is It, Anyway?
11.25 The Man with No Name: repeat showing of the profile of actor Clint Eastwood, possibly the least expressive of all Hollywood stars—but also one of the most successful.
12.25 am Weather.

Regions

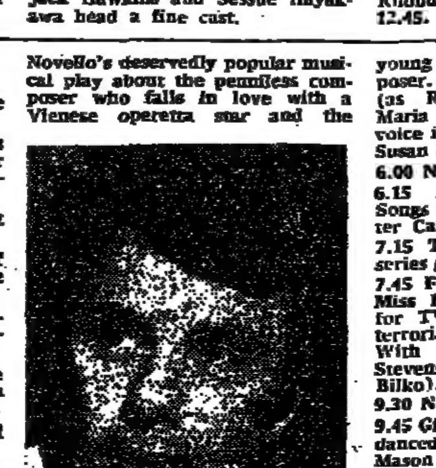
BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 12.25 am News and weather. Scotland: 12.10 pm Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family. 12.56 Landward. 12.25 am News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.25 am News and weather. England: 12.30 am Close.

BBC 2

2.25 pm Coppelia: Puppet version of the ballet, with music by Delibes (first seen in BBC1's school series).
2.40 Film: The Yearling (1946). Handsome-looking screen version of Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's moving book about the attachment a farmer's young son (Claude Jarman Jnr) forms to a stray fawn. Gregory Peck and Jane Wyman play the boy's parents. The dramatic highlight is a bear hunt.
4.55 Ski Sunday: The first event in the Four Hills Tournament from Obstertdorf, West Germany—ski jumping.
5.20 Rugby Special: A round-up of the memorable moments of 1979. With contributions from Rugby enthusiasts such as Sir Geraint Evans, Spike Milligan, and M Chaban-Delmas, former prime minister of France.
6.10 News Review; with visual commentary for the hard of hearing.
6.40 Cricket: Australia v West Indies. Second day's play in the second test. From Melbourne.
7.10 News and weather.
7.15 Film: Bridge on the River Kwai (1957). David Lean's memorable film about Japan's infamous "death railway" and the prisoners of war who had to work on it. William Holden, Alec Guiness, Jack Hawkins and Sessue Hayakawa head a fine cast.
9.50 John Everett Millais: documentary about the Victorian artist. Anna Massey is the narrator. A vast number of his paintings are seen and discussed by art experts (see Personal Choice).
10.50 Film: Don't Look Now (1973). Bizarre thriller about the strange things that happen to a married couple (Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland) who go to Venice after their daughter's drowning. It is based on a Daphne du Maurier story and is directed, with a fine eye for the shocking, by Nicolas Roeg.
12.35 am Music at Night: The fifth movement of Liszt's piano suite The Christmas Tree, played by Rhondda Gillespie. Closedown at 12.45.

London Weekend

9.05 Helping Hand: A programme specially for the disabled.
9.30 Play Guitar II: Ulf Goran is the tutor and his lessons are for both beginner and the more experienced.
10.00 Morning Worship: from St Mary's in Banham, south Norfolk.
11.00 Getting On: programme of special interest to those who are no longer young.
11.30 Puff the Magic Dragon: Animated feature based on Peter Yarrow's popular song.
12.00 Tarzan: The Voice of the Elephant. Jungle adventure with Ron Ely (r).
1.00 pm Police 5: Scotland Yard wants your assistance.
1.15 Babylon: Where are the blacks in Britain channelling their political energies?
1.45 University Challenge: fast-moving quiz between undergraduates.
2.15 The Big Match: Action from three of yesterday's football matches.
3.15 The Dancing Years: Ivor Novello's deservedly popular musical play about the penniless composer who falls in love with a Viennese operetta star and the young girl who loves the composer. With Anthony Valentine (as Rudi), Celia Gregory (as Maria Zeigler, though the singing voice is Marilyn Hill Smith's) and Susan Skipper (as Grete).



Anthony Valentine (ITV, 3.15)

6.00 News.
6.15 A Winchester Christmas: Songs and readings from Winchester Cathedral.
7.15 The Glums: The old radio series given a new lease of life.
7.45 Film: The Night They Took Miss Beautiful: A thriller, made for TV, about the hijacking by terrorists of five beauty queens. With Chuck Connors, Stella Stevens and Phil Silvers (Sergeant Bilko).
9.30 News.
9.45 Giselle: The ghost story ballet, danced by Nureyev, Seymour, Mason and members of the Ballet of the Bavarian State Opera House.
11.15 The Recorded Jasper Carrott: Repeat showing of the comedian's concert recorded at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane last February.
12.15 am Christmas Pie: The story of a greedy boy. The title, What's Better than Getting? implicity embodies the theme of this programme.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast.
6.30 Morning Has Broken.
7.15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye.
8.00 News.
8.10 Sunday Papers.
8.15 Sunday.
8.50 Week's Good Cause.
9.00 News.
9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Morning Service.
10.15 The Archers.
11.15 At Home with Hermione Gingold.
12.00 A Touch of Genius.
12.30 pm The Food Programme.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend.
1.40 Feedback.
2.00 News.
2.05 Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 Play: The Soft September Air, by Charlotte Hastings.
4.00 News.
4.02 Talking about Antiques.
4.30 The Living World.
5.00 James Cameron's Decade.
5.15 Down Your Way.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News
6.15 Wynford Vaughan-Thomas at 70.
7.00 Bookshelf.
7.30 Origins.
8.00 In Praise of God.†
9.00 News.
9.08 The Story of a Penny Suit, by Ken Whitmore.†
10.00 News.
10.15 A Word in Edgeways.
11.00 Before the Ending of the Day.†
11.15 Moonshine on Dogs.†
12.00 News.
12.15-12.23 am Weather.

VHF
2.00-6.00 pm Study on 4: Kein Problem; Sur le vif; Por aqui; Let's Go Into Practice (5); Meditation (4); Principles of Counselling (5); Helping with Health (5); World Powers in the 20th Century.

Radio 3

6.00 am Cricket: Australia v West Indies.
7.05 Records: Elgar (Starlight Express Excerpts).†
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Mendelssohn.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Records: Lully, Moscheles, Lvadov, Giuliani, Charpentier.†
10.30 Music Weekly.†
11.20 Berlin PO/Karajan: Stravinsky (Apollo).†
11.50 Interval reading.
11.55 Berlin PO: Tchaikovsky (Sym 6).†
12.50 pm Cornett and violin: Cima, Salaverde, Fontana, Bassano, Merula, Cesare, Frescobaldi.†
1.25 A Plain Man's Guide to Indian Music.†
2.00 Guitar (Bream): Weiss, Bach, Searle, Falla, Arnold.†
3.00 ECO/Zukerman: Mozart (incl arias—J. Baker).†
3.35 Interval reading.
3.45 ECO: Mozart (K320).†
4.30 Talk (Lucie-Smith): Paul Klee.
5.15 Voices (BBC Singers) and brass (P. Jones Ens): Poulenc, Bourgeois.†
6.00 One Pair of Ears: review.
6.15 Voices and brass: Aston, Gibbons, J. Jenkins, Elgar, Tippett, Farnaby.†
7.15 Play: The Last Ride of Walter Enderby, Motorist and Amorist, by Don Haworth.†
9.00 Vienna PO/Bernstein: Beethoven (Sym 9).†
10.20 Interpretations on Record: Chopin (Son in B Flat min).†
11.10 String quartet: Dvorak (op 106).†
11.55 News.
12.00-2.00 am Cricket: Australia v West Indies.

Radio 2

6.00 am News, weather. 6.03 Sam on Sunday.† 7.30 Nick Page.† 8.04 David Jacobs.† 10.02 Benny Green.† 11.30 People's Service. 11.55 The Choice is Yours. 12.02 pm Family Favourites.† 1.30 Listen to Les.† 2.02 Alan Dell.† 3.02 Peter Clayton.† 4.02 The Best of Two's Best.† 5.02 Sing Something Simple. 5.30 Charlie Chester. 7.02 Treble Chance. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9.02 Your 100 Best Tunes. 10.02 News Huddlines. 11.05 Ray Moore. 2.03-5.00 am You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

6.00 am As Radio 2. 8.00 Ed Stewart. 10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 pm Jimmy Savile. 3.00 Anne Nightingale. 5.00 Top 40.† 7.02 Star Special.† 9.00 Alexis Korner.† 10.02 Sounds of Jazz.† 12.00-5.00 am As Radio 2.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 6.00 am With Radio 2. 5.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

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WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (493m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

HTV

As London except. Starts 9.00 am Sesame Street. 11.00 Helping Hand. 11.30 Cabbages and Kings. 12.00 1979 Human Rights Day Concert. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Cartoon. 1.45 Puff, the Magic Dragon. 7.45 Film: Sherlock Holmes in New York (Roger Moore, John Huston, Patrick Macnee). 12.15 am Weather. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As General Service except: 6.00 pm News, followed by Report Wales. HTV WEST: As General Service.

Southern

As London except: Starts 8.45 am Communion. 11.30 Beachcombers. 12.00 Farm Progress. 12.30 pm News. 12.35 Cartoon. 12.45 Wombling Free. 12.15 am Weather, followed by What a Way to Spend Christmas.

Scottish

As London except: Starts 9.20 am Play Guitar. 10.00 Sesame Street. 11.30 Helping Hand. 12.00 Survival Special. 1.00 pm Seachd Laithean. 1.15 By the Way. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Larry the Lamb. 2.15 Ryder Cup '79. 3.15 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 4.00 Happy Days. 4.30 Scots sport. 12.15 am Late Call.

Grampian

As London except: Starts 9.30 am Babylon. 10.15 Seachd Laithean. 10.30 Story of Wine. 11.30 Yogi Bear. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Review. 2.00 Life Goes to the Movies. 4.30 Scotsport Review. 12.15 am Reflections.

Granada

As London except: Starts 9.30 am Babylon. 11.00 Play Guitar. 11.25 Survival. 12.00 Space 1999. 12.45 pm Wombling Free. 2.15 Kick-off Match. 7.45 Film: Sherlock Holmes in New York (Roger Moore, John Huston, Patrick Macnee). 12.15 am Police Surgeon.

Tyne Tees

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Reason Why. 9.30 Babylon. 11.30 Helping Hand. 12.00 Animated Classics. 1.00 pm Film: The Train (Burt Lancaster, Paul Scofield). 2.00 Cartoon. 2.15 Shoot! 12.15 am Barney Miller. 12.40 Epilogue.

Anglia

As London except: 9.30 am Babylon. 11.30 Call It Macaroni. 12.00 Film: Genevieve (John Gregson, Dinah Sheridan, Kenneth More, Kay Kendall). 1.35 pm Farming Diary Special. 2.05 Match of the Week. 3.05 Cartoon. 12.15 am Carol for Christmas Time.

Yorkshire

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Babylon. 9.25 Helping Hand. 9.55 Undersea Adventures of Captain Nemo. 11.00 Play Guitar. 11.30 Farming Diary. 12.00 Film: Go West Young Girl. 1.20 pm Emmerdale Farm. 2.15 Football Special. 12.15 am Five Minutes. 12.20 Tropic.

Westward

As London except: 9.30 am Getting On. 11.00 Play Guitar. 11.30 Helping Hand. 12.00 Human Rights Day Concert. 1.00 Cartoon time. 1.20 Rocket Robin Hood. 1.45 Farm and Country. 12.15 am Faith for Life. 12.20 Weather.

Border

As London except: Starts 9.30 am Babylon. 11.30 University Challenge. 12.00 Rock Mass. 1.00 pm Wilkie in Winter. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Dragon. 7.45 Film: Sherlock Holmes in New York (Roger Moore, Patrick Macnee, John Huston). 12.15 am Close.

ATV

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Farming Today. 9.30 Babylon. 11.30 University Challenge. 12.00 Won't Get Fooled Again: The Who. 12.45 pm Wombling Free. 2.15 Star Soccer. 7.45 Film: Hot Rock (Robert Redford, George Segal). 12.15 am Close.

Ulster

As London except: 11.30 am Helping Hand. 12.00 Bygones. 12.30 pm Untamed World. 1.00 Cartoon Time. 1.15 Sam. 6.00 News. 11.10 Sports Results.

Channel

As London except: Starts 2.13 pm Weather. 12.15 am Epilogue.

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Inflationary times

Throughout the English-speaking world the prospects for the institutional theatre are slightly cloudy. These theatres are largely dependent upon some degree of public subsidy. In times of inflation public subsidy tends to remain constant, if not actually decline, prices of course spiral, while, quite often, box-office income falls as people find themselves with less spare cash to spend on leisure activities, such as theatre-going. Two of New York's major institutional theatres have been largely helping themselves with the proceeds of Broadway hits.

A Chorus Line has proved a lifeline to the New York Shakespeare festival, and the Manhattan Theatre Club would not be behaving nearly so well were it not for its modest profits from the Fats Waller musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The profits from these shows will not go on for ever, and are, frankly, unlikely to be replaced.

Arts organizations all over the city are feeling the economic pinch, but are still struggling on. Interestingly we are seeing new attempts to provide New York with classic repertory companies. Such long-established ventures as the Roundabout Theatre, the CRC and the Jean Cocteau Repertory Company have been joined by Michael Moriarty's new Porter's Field Company.

Even more ambitious is David Jones's new repertory company at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which has recently announced its first five-play season next week. And there is always the prospect—less likely for this season than next—of Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theatre moving out of the dramatic shadows that have embraced it for four long seasons.

The Circle Repertory Company has been around for 10 years now, and given New York a great number of fine new American plays, many of them by its resident playwright, Lanford Wilson. But, hitherto, in the classic area it has moved less sure-footedly. With its current ventures of offering *Hamlet* and Schiller's *Mary Stuart* in revolving repertory, the company, with one stroke, rushed to the top of the class. This is a singularly fine achievement, a dazzling theatrical double-header. The two plays have been put together, with basically the same company, by the artistic director, Marshall Mason, because it seems he saw a similarity in theme and treatment between the two. Not really—Hamlet is the apogee of the Elizabethan revenge tragedy, while Schiller's *Mary Stuart* is a historical romance.

However both plays are set in a court, both plays have political intrigue as a motivating sub-text, and the Circle Repertory has taken the opportunity to use the same setting for both, and, indeed, in some cases, the same costumes. But this is a concept—it is thrift prompted by art rather than the customary reverse. Mr Mason wanted us to compare and contrast these two plays.

In fact, we don't—which is just as well. Peter Brook once said the wisest thing anyone has ever told me about Shakespeare: "Our mistake is to imagine that Shakespeare is simply better than other playwrights. Nonsense, he is in a creative world above the rest." And Schiller for all his finely wrought dramatics does come off a poor second best in the comparison. As a play, that is, although not necessarily as a production.

The *Hamlet* is defiantly low-keyed. It is a chamber *Hamlet*. Voices are rarely raised, and sometimes the actors speak in more trenchant whispers. Mason's direction, refreshingly, concentrates on meaning, and verbal suppleness, rather than poetry and high-scaled histrionics.

The concept begins with William Hurt's marvellously sardonic Hamlet, a thoughtful and brilliant performance. Unusually he wears a beard—the first bearded Hamlet in my experience since Alec Guinness more than 20 years ago, even though the text justifies a beard—and somehow this somewhat intellectual literalness informs his performance. He, and Mason, are obsessed, happily so, with meanings, with nuances of thought and emotion. Mr Hurt works his way through the poetry with subtlety, he never declaims, and he lets the sense rather than the words take the rhythm.

Inspired, in part, by his small stage, Mr Mason has concentrated on a claustrophobic Danish court. Yet the battlement scenes, with a most ghostly ghost, are imaginatively done, and the final fight scene—the redoubtable B.H. Barry was the fight director—is the most sensational I have ever seen. I hope they have understudies, including a few for the front row of the audience. The intimacy of the staging is stressed, wrongly I think, by having actors directly single out and address members of the audience. Yet it is not an intimacy apparently understood by the entire cast. Beatrice Straight's Gertrude is softly modulated and perfectly in tune, as is the tragedy-bent few Ophelia of Lindsay Crouse, both exquisitely tinted performances. Yet the conventional bluster of Douglass Watson as Claudius, admirable in its way, and the blundering, quite unadmirable in any way, of Burke Pearson's Polonius, almost ran against the production.

No matter, the concept was all, and Mr Hurt's Hamlet is a marker-stone in the career of a young man destined to be a great actor. The *Mary Stuart* was much less interesting, but in its overall effect even better. Again the play is dominated by one performance. Here it is Tanya Berezin as Elizabeth. Here are the cold, inner fires of Elizabeth's soul raked over with a wildly histrionic relish. Miss Berezin captures Elizabeth complete. In contrast Stephanie Gordon's beautifully controlled Mary seemed to have a touch of sentimentality to it, but in part this was Schiller's fault. It is equally Schiller's fault when, in his celebrated bending of historic fact he has Mary and Elizabeth actually meet face to face, Elizabeth comes out with all the good lines and all the good attitudes.

Mr Mason, using the same space and the same setting, has caught the play's proper sense of ceremonial. It is an implacable ritual of power and death, with none of the nervy possibilities available in *Hamlet*. There were some telling performances here—notably from Michael Ayr as Mortimer, and Timothy Shelton, a rather uninteresting Horatio, making a steely-eyed yet unctuous Leicester. Praise is also due for the set by David Jenkins, the costumes by Laura Crow and the lighting by Dennis Parichy. But most of all praise is due to the company for giving us two memorable nights of ensemble playing, and some of the most stimulating acting currently in New York.

Burlington Bertie from Baltimore

This year marks the centenary of Ella Shields, whose "Burlington Bertie from Bow" belongs in the pantheon of the British Music Hall. Curiously for the creator of a character so indigenous to London, she was American, born in Baltimore on September 26, 1879. At 20, after a year on the legitimate stage, she launched herself as a coon singer and ballad vocalist: she was already a star attraction at Hammerstein's Victoria, New York, when she was engaged as principal girl in the 1904-05 pantomime at the Mile End Pavilion.

She arrived in this country ahead of time, to make her first British appearance at the Empire, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and a triumphant London debut at the Foresters' Music Hall, billed as "THE Coon Singer". She stayed on in Britain, was a pantomime favourite with Edwardian audiences and then in 1910 decided to change her act to male impersonation.

Her success was overwhelming and she was instantly engaged for the spectacular opening bill at the new London Palladium, on Boxing Day, 1910. In 1915 "Burlington Bertie from Bow"—originally written by her husband William Hargreaves for the comic singer J. W. Rickaby, who turned it down—put the seal upon her success.

It is hard today for us to appreciate the intense excitement audiences found in the great male impersonators. There were three of them. Vesta Tilley (1864-1953) was the earliest. Hetty King (1883-1972), whose active stage career uniquely spanned ten decades, first donned men's attire in 1905. There was a piquant, risqué element about the mere appearance of a pretty girl in trousers, of course; but beyond that was the wit and subtlety of their observation of the opposite sex. They showed the fashionable man-about-town how to go on, and how to dress: when Vesta Tilley appeared in the United States, the press discussed her latest styles with the same interest as they might discuss a new couture collection.

The three artists felt a keen sense of rivalry. It was perhaps understandable in Vesta Tilley, who was already experiencing the onset of middle age when the other two stars came upon the horizon. Hetty King found lack of collaboration, if not downright hostility, in those theatres under the control of Tilley's husband, Walter de Frece.

On one unhappy occasion a misguided impresario thought it would be a novelty to put Hetty King and Ella Shields on the same bill at a Brighton music hall. Miss King graciously invited Miss Shields to call on her in her dressing room. Miss Shields's reply was curt; and an icy chill pervaded the theatre for the rest of the week. No one tried the experiment again.

The rivalry was needless, because each in her way was different and distinct from the others. Vesta Tilley, not a strong vocalist, was dazzling for her exquisite figure and costumes and (by report) her mime. Hetty King—who continued to perform right up to the time of her death at the age of 89—was irresistibly vital and exuberant, with an impeccable sense of character, expressed in the most subtle and precise gesture.

Ella Shields's characters on the contrary tended to have a strange, slightly sinister air about them. Vesta Tilley's original Burlington Bertie was a genuine toff, "with a Hyde Park drawl and a Bond Street crawl". Ella Shields's Bertie, however, came from Bow—a pathetic East End fake with a dickey and no shirt, who slept on a park bench, "with The News for a blanket".

"I walk down the Strand
With my gloves on my hand.
Then I walk down again with them off.
I'm all airs and graces,
So long without food,
I've forgot where my face is . . ."

An even more bizarre characterization was the wily half-wit in "I'm Not All There", exploiting people's sympathy to indulge his cupidity and lechery. She could however be ebullient too, and one of her biggest successes was "If You Knew Susie".

On stage she was economical of movement. Her technique was to lean on her walking stick, centre stage, and fix the audience with the brilliant eyes in the round boyish face and with the husky voice with its odd burr and inflections: "I'm *B'rrrt*—p'raps you've *h'rrrd* 'f mi? *B'rrrt*—you've had w'rrrd 'f mi . . ." An Irish actor who saw her at the Gaiety, Dublin, said it was the only time he had been aware of an artist in the theatre as a priestess in her temple.

Around 1930 Ella Shields returned to America. When she reappeared in England in 1948 it was rumoured that things had not gone well with her the past few years, and that her majestic bearing reflected Bertie's own efforts to conceal his misfortunes. Once a star, always a star: she renewed her old triumphs in Don Ross's "Thanks for the Memory" company, alongside other variety veterans, and was in the 1948 Royal Variety Show.

Her death was as dramatic as any old trouper could hope for. On August 3, 1952, she appeared in a Sunday night concert at a Morecambe holiday camp before an audience of 3,000. (The Sunday Observance regulations then in force required that she perform the act in skirts.) She had seemed tired before the show; but went on to sing "Susie", "Sweet Adeline" and "Down Yonder" in fine voice.

Her cue for the inevitable final number should have been "I'm Bert!" The conductor was alarmed when she announced instead, "Yes, I *was* Burlington Bertie". She gave him a reassuring smile, however, and went into her song. Only her friends could see that something was wrong. She finished the final chorus, proudly took her bows, and collapsed only as the last curtain fell.

David Robinson

Radio

Old stagers

Perhaps Christmas is a time when everyone expects to do what they have done before: to honour the same customs, eat the same sort of food, hear the same tunes, feel the same emotions. So if there was what seemed to be a very tidy number of repeats this year on BBC radio, it may have been entirely appropriate to the season. Besides, in a number of instances at last, nobody could possibly have objected to the offer of another chance to listen: Trevor Hill's production of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* is a case in point; so is Brian Sibley's *. . . and Yet Another Partridge in a Pear Tree*, which seems likely to become a minor Christmas classic.

Some things sounded like old stagers even if they were not: *The ITMA File* (producer Alan Haydock) had, as it were, been stripped of its gift wrapping by being published very near complete in the previous week's *Listener*; it was moreover a programme devoted to what by now has the status of a great tribal memory which at once puts it in the class of those we have loved and wish to go on loving. To add to that, programmes by the BBC about the BBC tend to confirm what we already know: they fill in further details of a picture we have looked at many times before. Consider the Corporation's relationship with some of its more distinguished contributors (Max Beerbohm, Dorothy Sayers) or even with its own Features Department and it is at once apparent that what Gordon Snell had to tell us about That Man and his employers was in the same familiar tradition. What *The ITMA File* added to our understanding of it was a clearer view of some of the elements involved.

ITMA was a national institution on an enormous scale. Rarely, if ever, can any group of programme makers have received such massive assurance from their audience that they were providing exactly what was required. Already by 1941, so we were told, Audience Research was able to report: "For the listener, and there were very few critics, *ITMA* has all the virtues of the perfect variety show." It is, of course, not the place of audience researchers to display enthusiasm, but do you not detect in that small utterance something just a little dampening?

For the listener it may have been perfect, but . . . Mr Snell's programme spent much of its time expanding on that "but", evoking by way of decrees from the Controller of Programmes, his Assistant and the Security and Policy Censors an attitude to *ITMA*'s success somewhat at variance with that of its performers and audience. In opposition to the latter which you might call the response Dionysiac, could be detected the response Corporate: cautious, worried about innuendo—or worse still, the lack of it, concerned always to offend as few people as possible and to that end drawing up lists of "certain subjects" which might not be made into jokes and certain others which might not be the subject of suggestive reference. I suppose it must have been as an expression of the response Corporate at its worst that, when announcing Handley's death, the BBC managed to refer to him as "Mr. Thomas Handley", a person quite unknown to the public at large. Of course all this was back in the distant Forties, and yet essentially—as anybody who *contributes* to it knows or quickly finds out—it also describes the BBC in one of its contemporary aspects. Given the nature of the Corporation and the many often conflicting roles it has to play (journalist, dramatist, entertainer, educator . . .) it will undoubtedly continue to serve as a description for as long the organization exists.

All honour to LBC for devising their Tower of London competition for schools of which the winners were announced just before Christmas. I think it was particularly well-conceived because the entrants were faced with the very taxing and highly appropriate task of making a 10-minute sound programme (on some aspect of the Tower). There were attractive prizes and the response is said to have been encouraging. In many ways so were the winning entries: Dulwich Hamlet Junior School offered *Sounds of the Tower* in the under 11 category, Westlands High School of Sittingbourne won the 11-14s with *The Trial and Execution of Anne Boleyn* and Haberdasher's Aske's Hatcham Girls took the over 14 prize with *The Escape of Lord Nithsdale*. All of them—and this is the encouraging part—showed at least some understanding of what can be done with sound. As for the technical side, I doubt if I will surprise the winners (and if I don't surprise them, I hope I won't discourage them either) when I say that it left an awful lot to be desired. I've no doubt that most entrants had to work with the most primitive facilities and that sets an early limit to what anyone can do, but I am equally sure that in the attempt they will have learnt more about what you can *do* in sound and how you *do* it than any amount of listening would ever have taught them. As one of the prizes, LBC offered a music centre: if one aim of their competition is to foster the practice of radio, then perhaps next year (instead or in addition) they might consider offering a tolerably good open-reel tape recorder.

David Wade

Sir Michael at 75

Sir Michael Tippett will be 75 on Wednesday. Already our orchestras have begun their tributes which will continue throughout 1980, including a concert performance and attendant gramophone recording of *King Priam*. On the birthday evening, his most recent string quartet will be played for the first time on London's South Bank. Devotees of his music can expect performances, here or there, of all his major compositions, even if one or more has to be heard on a record.

He threw away everything that he composed before the late 1930s. Very little of his subsequent music has not lasted well, and all of it pushes other people's ideas, however unwilling to change, a degree or more further. Charles Ives wanted to stretch people's ears; Tippett's music asks us to stretch our thinking, likewise his published writings about music.

The composer himself, seemingly energetic and youthful as ever, is looking to the future. I talked to him recently just before he went off to America, by now almost a second home for him. The excuse was a concert which he is to conduct in Syracuse, NY. But he admits that the attraction is the youth of America which, in the last decade, has taken his music to its heart, from one state to another. He admits shyly to a pride in the Texan T-shirt which exhorts its beholders to "Turn on to Tippett". More seriously he is thrilled by the young people, musicians and lay folk alike, who seem to have found in his music the fulfilment of their searches for a pattern of life, a sort of unofficial religion with Tippett as mentor if not high priest.

Tippett himself is far more interested in his present and future work. He has just completed a triple concerto whose soloists are violin, viola and cello, the standard string trio. The London Symphony Orchestra commissioned it, and will give the world premiere during the summer of 1980. Several American performances are planned.

Neither the baroque *concerto grosso* trio of two violins and cello, nor the romantic piano trio (as in Beethoven's "Archduke") was envisaged for this work, nor is the trio of strings displayed as an entity, of "concertists"—the composer's word. "They are individuals", he explains, "and therefore the work comes closer to Brahms's double concerto in scope. I wanted to present them all to us in turn, like archetypes. First the viola, then the cello, finally the violin, each suggesting its particular essence, something that fascinates me. For example, the cello in Elgar's concerto has an ache which belongs to itself, partly to its register, partly its quality. That means that each instrument must follow its own personal line of activity, and that is what I have done.

"If you think of the eighteenth-century method, where each solo instrument is expected, at its first appearance, to repeat what has just been heard, that puts the modern composer into a great deal of difficulty. In my concerto, I don't provide material for any of the solo instruments that at all belongs to the others.

"On the other hand, there are three of them and, unlike the hands on the keyboard, each stringed instrument can change register by two octaves and more, simply by moving the bow across adjacent strings. That gave me an idea which I've employed in the slow movement. Its melody is played by all three soloists—for once they all are playing the same theme, and together. The cello is two octaves above the viola, and the violin an octave above the cello; but at a certain point in that long cantilena the cello drops suddenly to the lowest point of the texture, creating an immediate change, inherent in the fact of their playing together.

"It's a 30-minute piece, very lyrical, structured in alternating blocks, not developing steadily, indeed hardly at all. About two years ago I had to learn Elgar's Violin Concerto for a concert in Dallas which eventually I couldn't conduct (I fell ill and had to come home). But I learned that Elgar decided against a development of the first movement. He laid the material out, then he laid it out again, more deliberately. It works because the material is so lyrical; Beethoven had accepted something of the same kind with his fiddle concerto, even though he had such a strong natural concern for development (it isn't what a composer really thinks about).

"When I was young I imagined that development was obliged of me. Now I'm beginning to move into other fields. Sections are shifted and put together in certain ways. I think Mozart did the same, and he was interested in the idea of triple concertos. The main problem was a lovely one, to present the solo instruments so that none outclassed the others. When they all play together, after their first entries, they're a long way apart: a beautiful polyphony, but very strange."

So to Tippett's next composition, a large choral and orchestral work, filling a whole concert, and already commissioned by a major American orchestra. It will involve four vocal soloists. Tippett, as usual, has got to write his own text which will deal with the birth of the world, then Man and Time within History. More he does not yet know, except that it will not be calculated English music. Tippett's outlook is to the whole world. He wants, I think, to compose something like Mahler's second symphony for the 1980s, but with English musical language. Not aggressively English: Tippett is a world citizen; nothing pleases him more than when a work of his captures the imagination of people in some other country. Yet he remains entirely an individual, one might say an eccentric. Every work he produces is *sui generis* as acceptable elsewhere as in Britain.

William Mann

Good Food Guide

A short list for the eighties

's a phenomenon of fame ll walks of life that people . to fade from view after thirty-fifth birthday, ı journalists can no longer them "young" or "pro- ıg", only to re-emerge their sixtieth, when they me "veterans", and every- is astonished to discover still capable of lifting bow, or paint brush.

staurants, likewise, are better treated in their cy or seniority than in prime. The demands of paper columns like this, of the competitive climate ıich restaurant guides are shed, put a premium on ty. It is difficult for a editor to say to his rs that restaurant X or Y romising place but that it e a better one in two or years time if it is ed time for experiment the gradual accumulation ın understanding local ele, before a different of customer descends on place in a "show me" Anyway, the huge cost restaurant launch and the ant bank loan now com- a *new* proprietor to t as many people as he n the shortest possible Otherwise, in two years— o months—he might be business.

is the rationalization ding a decade of eating- ering which close on a nd restaurants and have figured in this col- with three places of romise that have been in ss for a year or less. At me time, if it were a n of nominating "res- s of the year", let the decade, the names obviously be different. ighest respect is owed ers and chefs who stay five years or more (in it would be more like perfecting their tech- without sacrificing their les or losing their in- n modifying and embell- their fundamental style. distinction list, bearing es, that the *Good Food* published in its 1969 only 11 survive in the ands with food or wine ions in the 1979 edition, ly 33 still appear in the all.

the record, here are the e Connaught Hotel in ; and elsewhere, High- Hotel, Chittlehamholt; orn of Plenty, Gul- ; the French Partridge, the Elizabeth, Thornbury Castle; v Bay Hotel, Ullswater; fe of Bath, Wye; the Tree Inn, Llandewi Arbutus Lodge, Cork; llymaloe House, Shana- In the most literal hese have been the res- of the Seventies, a list composed to this specification acciden- cludes several of the ıfluential and creative tive in Britain over the eriod: notably George nith and Joyce ıx (who migrated from o their present res- ; in Helford and Dart- over five years ago), ovey at Windermere, among London ıen, Nico Ladenis, Guy on, and the Roux .

these people have and taken, time to eir mark. Few of them, , would wish to offer customers today the and standards they er from their first 12 This should perhaps e in mind by anyone hes off to try White's ln, Mallet's at Rams- d the Lake Isle at Upp- (Mallet's in any case is or the whole of Janu- t at the end of 1979, ree have seemed good tips for the Eighties.

sense Colin and Gwen restaurant is the oldest ne's book, for it is in the Jews' House, a twelfth-century sometimes reputed to ldest dwelling house in (One wonders whether ted a building society mortgage. . . .) Some ave found the place by ing Mr White's name mer employments (the Newport, and the Old Wickham); others have mpted inside by the hand-written menu in low, which that day in- braised oxtail and asted duck with fresh pineapple. The oxtail—like the leek and potato soup—was left on the table for second helpings.

There are only half a dozen tables, and the style, like the food, is simply conceived, with "everything home-made bar the bread". As often with new places, helpings are generous, and some visitors have flagged before they reached the orange curaçao trifle or the gooseberry fool. But at earlier stages, people have been reminded of Perry-Smith's style by the jambon persillé in its sharp white wine jelly, the light cream cheese and herb quiche, the boned chicken in pastry with madeira and mushroom sauce, and another ham dish, saupiquet des Amagnes. (Perhaps Elizabeth David's *French Provincial Cooking* is the source common to both.) The house wines are from Provence at £3.50, and there are some good Riojas at a little more.

Wine is more limited at Simon Mallet's converted shop in Ramsgate, although the house choice (Provençal, again) is adequate, and suits the French *provincial* style that Mr Mallet, too, inherited from the Perry-Smith school, via Wye, France and London. "The bowl of oil-glistening black olives on every table is like a welcome home, and the service is natural and helpful—when I asked for a spoon to finish the sauce of the tripe, a second helping was suggested."

Olives—green this time—appeared again in an interesting duck dish, done with thyme and white wine, and "crisped to perfection", and "if the other main dishes on the short menu equalled our sea bass in pastry with raisins and ginger there were pleasures indeed to be enjoyed by other diners". But there are refined pleasures among first courses too—a Kentish version of tempura vegetables as a first course, lightly battered and fried, and "melting hot pastry turnovers with brandade of smoked mackerel inside, and a slightly tart dill-seed cream on the side as a foil". Simple fools and ices, and home-made fudge with coffee, round off meals. A pity that, as a customer complains, "by the end of the evening noise and smoke levels were unacceptable".

Roy Richards' Lake Isle in Uppingham, Rutland (dwellers there tend to insist on the county name) also exhibits some of the new simplicity of style which is perhaps the seventies' bequest to the eighties. But there are also differences in pedigree — Mr Richards is a disciple of Kenneth Bell at Thornbury Castle) and vinous interest (as the owner of a wholesale wine business, he keeps a fine cellar, very modestly marked up at wholesale prices plus £1.50 a bottle plus VAT and 10 per cent service). Helpings, too, as befits five-course dinners, are more restrained than at the other two places.

The latest meal at the Lake Isle of which an account is to hand began with "excellent though not over-hot" carrot and orange soup; then admirable onion flan, daube de boeuf with crinkly, lightly cooked cabbage, a mixed salad, a fine Stilton, and a choice of chocolate mousse or pear in red wine. Coffee was included in the £7.50 table d'hote price, and the correspondent, further fortified by the sight of Ch Lagune and Ch Leoville-Lascases '71 under £9, not to mention a wide range of table wines from various countries under £3.50, began to feel that an occasional restaurant meal might not be altogether beyond his purse. "And needless to say, the room was blessedly silent", as Yeats's lake isle was, apart from "the hive for the honey bee".

Details

White's, The Jew's House, 15 The Strait, Lincoln, Lincs. Tel.: Lincoln 24851. Closed Sunday; Monday lunch. Must book. Meals 12.30-1.30, 7.30-10.00. A la carte meal with wine about £9.85.

Mallet's, 58 Queen Street, Ramsgate, Kent. Tel.: Thanet 52854. Closed lunch; Sunday; Monday; January. Must book. Dinner 7.30-10.30. A la carte dinner with wine about £9.75.

Lake Isle, 16 High Street East, Uppingham, Leics. Tel.: Uppingham 2951. Closed lunch; Sunday; Monday. Must book. Dinner 7.30-9.30. Table d'hote dinner £7.50.

Chess

The prodigy's era

In the days of my youth, little more than half a century ago, the greybeards were wont to quote the Latin saying "maxima reverentia debetur pueri" rather with an innuendo of petulant paradox than in any real belief as to its validity. There was of course the eight-year-old boy prodigy, Sammy Reshevsky, who was beating with great ease players eight times his age and eight times as stupid.

But how could you owe and indeed show the greatest reverence to an infant who, not yet having had time for cheerful yesterdays was by no means assured of confident tomorrows? Moreover, was it possible in any way to be sure of the age of someone born in a remote part of the Russian empire where and when birth certificates were not yet invented?

Well, we have changed all that and nowadays the boy prodigy is the rule rather than the exception. In the United States Bobby Fischer was a grandmaster at the age of 15 and here in England we have among others Nigel Short, 14 years old and figuring in a three-way tie for the British Championship, the other two being an international grandmaster and an international master.

But all this pales into comparative nothingness when we come to the case of the Soviet schoolboy, Garry Kasparov, whose real name, by the way, seems to be Harry Wainstain; who at the age of just 16 won a great tournament at Banja Luka in Yugoslavia. The field included a wealth of grandmasters and a former world champion in Tigran Petrosian. Despite this he was assured of first prize with two rounds still to go.

In scoring 11½ out of 15 he had fulfilled the grandmaster norm and he came first 2½ points ahead of grandmasters Andersson. The other two grandmasters who tied for second place were the Czechoslovak Smejkal and the Soviet Petrosian. Next came Adorjan 8½ Knezevic 8, Matanovic and Browne 7½, Bukic 7, G. Garcia and Marjanovic, Marovic and Vukic 6½, Hernandez and Kurajica 6 and the only other player to be, like Kasparov, non-titled Shiberovic 4.

He beat the American champion, Walter Browne, with a combination so beautiful that the Yugoslav press was moved to liken him to Bobby Fischer at the same age. I think in fact that he is superior combinationally to Bobby Fischer at that age but perhaps not quite with that classic command of strategy that distinguished both Fischer and Capablanca in the days of their youth.

Thinking along those lines it appears to me that the only player who could stop Kasparov's inevitable approach to the World Championship would be Bobby Fischer, in the unlikely event of that great player returning to the scene of the World Championship contests.

I mentioned last week how well he is doing in the 47th Soviet Championship tournament at Minsk. That tournament also contains a number of junior players of great talent. There is Sergei Dolmatov, junior world champion in 1978, and the younger Arthur Yusupov, who was the junior world champion the year before that. Another former junior world champion competing in Minsk is Alexander Belyavsky who won the title as long ago as 1973 in the Teesside ahead of Tony Miles.

The Soviet chess journal "64" gives what it calls their individual coefficient by which it means their rating number. The Soviet rating is slightly dissimilar to the Elo rating but the relations between the players are just the same. Yusupov's for example is 2,475, whereas Kasparov's is 2,510. These, in Elo rating terms are Yusupov 2,490 and Kasparov 2,545, a rating he obtained in the preliminary Elo list for last July.

Their individual encounter was in the third round, after Kasparov had already disposed of Georgadze in Round One and Sveshnikov in Round Two. The game was an extraordinary one which followed some analysis given by the former champion, the Estonian grandmaster, Paul Keres. How far each player was aware of this is anybody's guess but the whole line seems to be bad for Black.

White G. Kasparov Black A. Yusupov Ruy Lopez, Morphy Defence, open variation.

1 P-K4 P-K4
2 N-KB3 N-QB3
3 B-N5 P-QR3
4 B-R4 N-B3
5 0-0 NxP
6 P-Q4 P-QN4
7 B-N3 P-Q4
8 PxP B-K3
9 B-K3

More usual here are either 9 P-B3 or 9 Q-K2.

9 .... B-K2
10 QN-Q2 0-0
11 .... B-KN5
12 NxN PxN
13 Q-Q5

Now we are back in normal lines; of the three moves at Black's disposal here Q-Q2, NxN, or B-KN5 the exchange of Knights seems to give Black least trouble.

A strong move recommended by Keres who is the great analyst of the Ruy Lopez. After 13 B-Q5, NxP; 14 BxP; NxN ch; and after the exchanges the position levels out.

13 .... PxN

Or 13.., QxQ; 14 BxQ, PxN; 15 BxN, PxP; 16 KxP, QR-Q1; 17 P-QR4, with pressure on Black's Q side.

14 QxN PxP
15 QxKNP Q-Q2
16 B-R6 PxB
17 P-B3 P-KR4

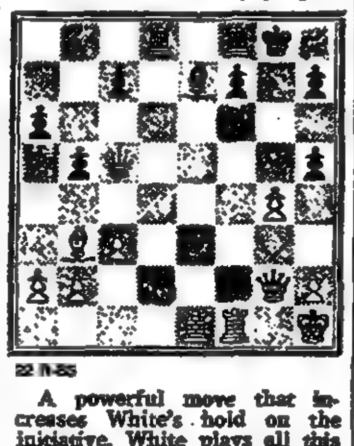
Weakens the Kingside; but after 17.., B-B4 ch; 18 K-R1, QR-K1; 19 QR-K1 and White has the advantage.

18 QR-Q1 Q-B4
19 PxB QxKP

If 19.., QxP(N5); 20 R-Q7 leaves White with a firm grip on the position.

20 QR-K1 Q-B4 ch
21 K-R1 QR-Q1

Position after 21.., QR-Q1



22 N-B5

A powerful move that increases White's hold on the initiative. White plays all this part of the game with wonderful energy.

22 .... Q-Q3
23 R-Q5

Now the Queen is forced off the defence of the KB; for if 23.., Q-KB3; 24 P-N5.

23 .... Q-KN3
24 RxB RxR
25 BxR PxP
26 Q-K4 QxQ ch

Equivalent to resignation; but if 26.., Q-N4; 27 RxKBP, RxR; 28 Q-K8 ch, K-N2; QxR ch, resigns. In fact, Black resigned after a few more moves.

Harry Golombek

Travel

Putting on the Greek style

Lambs roasting on spits, Paleokastritsa, Corfu.

When we had finished working on our last visit to Corfu—though, between ourselves, I find it increasingly difficult to tell when I am "off duty" abroad, regarding every experience as notebookworthy—I hired a small car and spent that spare day revisiting a few special places. One of these is the *taverna Naftis* at Kavos, about which I recall writing in the summer of 1978. It had changed, of course, but it had changed for the better.

In the first place the road to Kavos from Corfu Town has been improved, and recalling the potholes of the final stretch, that certainly is a change for the better. The road heads south from the island's capital, through Benitses—tatty and in grave danger of overreaching itself through overdevelopment—and along the coast to Mesongi. Then it winds inland, through a collection of slumbering hamlets whose white walls dazzle the eye, until it reaches Lefkimi. It was from here that the potholes began and the road surface frayed away, as so many roads seem to do when abroad. But no more. As we headed towards Kavos it was clear that the road had been and was still being improved. Not perfect by any means, but a lot better than before. It is surprising that Kavos is under 30 miles from Corfu Town, for when you do reach it you feel you have completed a monumental journey.

Anyway, there was the familiar turning and the track up to the *Naftis*. And there, with a grin and a welcoming glass of wine, was Mr Evangelos Pandis, the taverna's owner.

He is tall and he is broad, and beyond that I shall not describe except to say that if a casting director were looking for someone to play the role of a retired Greek sailor now running a *taverna*, he would pick out Mr Pandis from any line-up. We talked of what had happened since my last visit, as we disposed of the *dolmades* and the *dzadziki*—and the wine. He showed me the new rooms being built above the restaurant which he was going to rent during the holiday season, using the services of OSL. He told my companion of his career at sea—which began when he joined his first ship in Manchester—and as we tackled the salad with its white *feta* cheese and black olives and the dish of huge shrimps which came as a curtain raiser for the main course, I revelled in that special atmosphere that a *taverna* generates. How fortunate that on Corfu it is possible to make such establishments your holiday base.

Not, mind you, that I would criticize the large hotels to which so many visitors travel. I have stayed in three of them and visited most of the others and know that if you are a first-time traveller to Corfu such hotels provide all the amenities you expect and help make your holiday a comfortable one. I know, because I have met them, that the hotels have their faithful regular guests, too. (Incidentally, if you have never travelled to a Greek island, Corfu is a good place to begin. It is more "European" than any of the others, because of its geographical position, but it does have that Greek style about it that so many Britons find attractive. And from it you may graduate, as it were, to the drier, hotter and more typical islands of the Eastern Mediterranean.)

I think the best kind of holiday on Corfu is one which leaves you free to sample the *tavernas* during the evening. Stay at a hotel by all means, on half-board terms, spending your days on the beach or by the pool and taking your buffet lunch at leisure there.

And in the evenings explore the various establishments finding those whose food and wine you most appreciate, or which have that special atmosphere.

Since my last visit, "The Village" had opened. This is a £1m plus development which recreates a traditional Corfiat village on 25 acres between Danilia and Temploni, eight kilometres from Corfu Town. The intention is a good one, for the village is semi-educational in that during the day one may see coppersmiths, leather workers, potters and other specialist craftsmen at work. (And buy examples of their craft.) Costumed guides conduct people around the village and its museum, explaining the customs and way of life of earlier days, demonstrating how oil and wine were produced, showing them inside some of the houses which have been furnished with old pieces gathered from all over the island.

It is certainly worth visiting during the day, but I have my reservations about its night time activity although, again, the intention is good. An evening of Greek entertainment—bouzouki playing, folk songs and dances—is provided as visitors eat a "typical" Greek meal in a large and high dining hall. The problem is that a large number of people is assembled and as the evening—and the free wine—wears on, some of them are inclined to become boisterous. Chauvinism is also inclined to surface as some holidaymakers comment on the behaviour of others. But perhaps I was unlucky on the choice of evening. Or then again, perhaps I am not cut out for organized jollity *en masse*.

However, the real attraction of Corfu is in the beauty of the island itself. One of the guide books claims there are between three and four million olive trees on Corfu, and one can believe it, when looking out over the island from the high ground in the north west.

Hiring a car is an expensive business—as it is on all Greek islands—but one needs mobility in order to appreciate fully what Corfu has to offer. I had a tiny Fiat for that one day and paid £24, even though the car company gave me a ten per cent discount. I wonder if some means can be found to reduce such costs, and observed during my visit that a great number of holidaymakers had hired scooters and mopeds. If those less expensive alternatives become popular, perhaps the car hire companies will react by reducing their charges.

We needed the car, however, not only for the journey down to Kavos, but so that I could show my companion a part of the island that is particularly pleasant, driving north from Dassia and turning inland near Ipsos to cross the northern part of the island and reach the opposite coast high above Paleokastritsa. That place is an extremely popular destination for the sightseeing coaches, and suffers as a result. I think it is best seen from high above and at a distance.

Notwithstanding the cost of car hire, this is the best way to discover the delights of Corfu, especially along those roads far off the beaten tourist track. Arm yourself with the best map you can purchase—though even the best maps do not always coincide with the reality of the road system—and set off prepared to get lost. One of the best days I remember from an early visit was when I literally "ran out of road" near the village of Vassilatika. "It happens always", a young man told me, sauntering over from his perch in the shade of a barn. "We laugh when the cars pass here. We know they must pass back again. No route. No hurrying."

For my money, Corfu is best in spring, when a carpet of wild flowers is thick in the meadows and olive groves—protected by the huge nets spread under the trees to catch the falling olives. But of course it is at its most spectacular at Easter.

Next year the Greek Easter coincides with our own and in Corfu town on Easter Saturday evening the crowds will gather with their candles, a glittering sea of tiny flames, waiting for the stroke of midnight and the celebration *Christos Anesti*. Nowhere in Greece is there a more unusual or colourful celebration.

You may obtain more information about Corfu from the Greek Tourist Office, which is at 195/197 Regent Street, London, W1R 8DL. Very many tour companies—literally dozens—offer inclusive holidays on the island, using hotels or tavernas or self-catering villas and details of these can be had from the brochures which any competent travel agent will stock. Although Benn's "Blue Guide to Greece" by Stuart Rossiter contains a section on Corfu, more information may be had from Celia Irving's *The Adriatic Islands and Corfu* which was first published in 1971 by Dent, and in the more recent (1977) *Corfu* which Margaret Hopkins wrote for Batsford. A very useful pocket guide is that in the Berlitz series, which you can buy on the island if your local bookshop doesn't happen to have a copy.

John Carter

Gardening

Successes and failures

In this last article of the year may I make one or two observations that I was unable to make as the year wound its way on. First (naturally) a comment on the weather. Do you remember how we grumbled in April and May—"Would the winter never end?" "Would the summer never come?"

Yet such is nature's resilience, when the weather did warm up, within six weeks our plants and crops were virtually back on schedule. I say virtually because the summer I think did not suit all plants. We and some of our friends grow sweet corn and this was a miserable failure. True we were growing a new variety, but it was supposed to be an early one, and we may have been a bit late with the sowings and when the time came to plant them out the young plants were not as large as they would normally be. The general opinion among the professionals is that there was a short cold spell in June which gave the plants a check from which they never recovered.

Other friends complain that most of their leeks bolted to seed. My friends in the seed trade have told me that older varieties like "Musselburgh" are more prone to bolting prematurely than modern varieties such as Yates Empire.

And while we are on the subject of varieties. I will return to my hobby horse—the mania of seed breeders here and abroad for producing dwarf compact varieties of flowers. Gardens are small they say, so we must have small plants. Last summer I visited one large seed trial ground and over three-quarters of the varieties, I estimated were under a foot high. Dwarf plants are fine so long as they are growing in rich fertile soil and are watered adequately in dry spells. If not, they fail to make sufficient root growth; they either stop growing before making their full growth and flower prematurely; or they die.

Most garden soils are hungry and few people water soon enough or generously enough. So if gardeners are growing dwarf varieties, too often they end up with miserable quarter-sized versions of plants that are already not very imposing.

There is an analogy here with the motor car. Motoring correspondents wax lyrical about the fabulous rate of acceleration but what the average motorist wants is a car that starts at the first turn of the switch and keeps on going with no trouble. So with plants. The specialists will take endless trouble to coddle the rarer plants in their collection. Some of us will take the trouble to give special care and protection to a few plants in the garden, but most of us want sturdy, vigorous plants that may be relied upon to flourish without undue fuss. When my father retired and for the first time had a garden of his own he ruthlessly flung out any plant that was regularly subject to disease.

I realize in saying all this I am perhaps arguing against myself, because often in the past I have bewailed the tendency for nurserymen to reduce drastically the number of varieties of plants they produce to sell in garden centres. Here we are up against the economic facts of life. In garden centres they can only stock a limited number of varieties. These will obviously be the common varieties that most people have heard of and will pick up and buy—this applies to all plants, fruit trees and of course seeds.

If this is progress so be it. But it is sad to think that very soon we will only be able to choose from say half a dozen apples and half a dozen pears. Maybe we do not need more than half a dozen apples and pears, but the same limitation of choice is happening throughout the whole range of plant varieties. One can only hope that there will always be specialist nurseries that will still be able to carry a long list of varieties. But these specialist firms have to be sought out and already we hear of drastic curtailments to their lists.

Limitation of choice seems to be something people accept just as they meekly accept unripe fruit in the shops and even the most expensive restaurants. Half-green tomatoes never achieve the full flavour they would have had if left on the plant for a few more days. We may forgive the greengrocer for stocking only half ripe fruit because he does not want to have to throw any away. But I cannot forgive an expensive restaurant that serves a pear as hard as a half ripe marrow and has the effrontery to charge a pound for it. The other day in Paris, I thought £2 for a pear in a restaurant was a bit on the high side, but at least it was beautifully ripe and as I was not paying for it I had no cause to complain. I think we should start a sustained campaign against unripe fruit in restaurants.

Still thinking about fruit, I am sad about all the British apples thrown away because of the influx of cheap 'Golden Delicious' apples from France. Now I am one of those people, bigoted perhaps, who believe that only apples with the 'Cox's Orange Pippin' flavour are worth eating. Some people like the French 'Golden Delicious' or 'Calville'. The French do. They do not like Cox's. But I am told that the French are grubbing up vast acreages of 'Golden Delicious' and replanting them with 'Idared'. This is a lovely apple to look at and will obviously sell but, for me insipid and of poor flavour. But such are the market forces; we will get what is forced upon us, whether we like it or not and almost certainly half ripe at that. The remedy is in our own hands—grow it in the garden.

Now as 1979 draws to a close we have an extraordinary situation—bulbs pushing well up, long before they should be showing above ground. But do not worry about them. They can stand all the frost and snow that may, or hopefully may not, hit them between now and the spring. Forsythia is in bloom—far earlier than I have ever known. The lawns look lush and happy. The worms are still working away near the surface and throwing up their casts which have to be switched away from any area that may have to put up with foot traffic.

All in all I think we may look back on 1979 as a kindly year for gardeners. Let us hope that 1980 will begin mild, that the spring when it comes will stay and not go back on itself with late and damaging frosts; that the summer will be warm and sunny with timely, generous, short periods of rain; that we will have a golden autumn with no serious frosts until November and that we have no snow until Christmas eve. And so, I offer you every good wish and Happy Gardening in the New Year.

Roy Hay

Michael Shanks looks at the double challenge facing the EEC farm policy

Controlling the cuckoo in the nest

Mr Roy Jenkins can be forgiven a feeling of depression as he starts the final year of his presidency of the European over which he presides is facing what looks like the worst crisis Commission. The Community of its life. And the fourth year of a Brussels presidency is traditionally a time in which the authority of the Commission erodes and decision-making deteriorates, as the commissioners either look for new jobs or spend their time lobbying in their national capitals to ensure reappointment.

This is therefore a bad time for the Community to have to face the double challenge which has arisen over its budget. Within the past month the British bid to reduce the United Kingdom's budget contribution by £1,000m has been overtaken by the European Parliament's rejection of the budget as a whole.

These two challenges, apparently unrelated, have a common origin. This lies in the domination of the Community budget by the Common Agricultural Policy, a cuckoo which is progressively ejecting the other birds, such as the regional and social policy, from the Brussels nest through its voracious appetite for funds. It is the undue share of total Community funds taken by the CAP which has produced the excessive, and unplanned. British budgetary contribution. It is also the reason for the Parliament's rejection of the budget.

If the Community is to survive, some way has to be found of "capping the CAP", ie of imposing a ceiling on farm support spending. The fact is that Europe's agricultural productivity has been growing much faster than anybody anticipated 10 years ago.

Most of Europe's farmers no longer need the support provided by the Common Agricultural Policy, and those who do could be helped at less cost through the social fund or the agricultural guidance fund. Farm output has grown without the disciplines of the market, since the CAP guarantees demand even when the product is in structural surplus.

The result has been a progressively more unbalanced Community. Quite apart from the special problem this presents for Britain, it has for some time been economically indefensible. The Parliament's action demonstrates that it is now politically unacceptable as well.

It was predictable that sooner or later a directly-elected European parliament would seek to challenge the executive, and to secure some at least of the powers which a democratically-elected national parliament would expect to exercise. But what is significant about the present conflict is that the parliamentary majority against the budget includes political groups who would normally be expected to side with national governments against a supranational assembly, such as the British Conservative and Labour members of the Strasbourg assembly.

> If the Community is to survive some way has to be found of reducing the economic and political imbalance

This means that the issue cannot be regarded just as a conflict over constitutional authority. Wherever sovereignty should lie, the real issue is whether the CAP can be contained or whether it will destroy the Community. If the Community institutions can agree on a fundamental overhaul of the CAP the problem of the British budgetary contribution can probably be subsumed within the general examination. For an EEC less dominated by agricultural spending would be a much more acceptable one for the United Kingdom to belong to.

The question is whether the Community has the will to undertake this fundamental rethink, or whether the Council of Ministers—led by France, which among the bigger countries has most to lose — will prefer to dig in its heels and fight off what it may regard as a straight challenge to its authority. If this happens, the prospect is grim. The Community is in no shape to enter into an internal constitutional conflict.

The alternative has to be, as I have already indicated, some modification of the CAP. But those who are demanding change have to give something as well. As I suggested in these columns on November 29, it is unrealistic for Britain to try to exclude the North Sea altogether from the European equation.

However, the unbalanced nature of the budget is only one part of the problem facing the EEC institutions. The other aspect of the crisis is the institutions themselves, and their inability either to resolve the conflicting interests of the present members or, *a fortiori*, to cope with the problems posed by the impending enlargement of the Community to include Greece (due to enter during the next 12 months), Spain and Portugal.

The challenge facing Mr Jenkins and his colleagues is to use their last year in office to make Europe's institutions flexible and efficient enough to service an enlarged Community of 12 better than they are servicing today's Community of nine. A bruising battle between two of the key institutions, the Council and the Parliament, will hardly be helpful at this juncture. But it may be unavoidable.

If so, this simply means that the third institution, the Commission, will have to work harder to inject new thinking into the EEC. The two reports on internal structures commissioned respectively by President Giscard d'Estaing and Roy Jenkins—the Dell Report and the Spierenburg Report—have both pointed the way forward in the past few months. Their recommendations have been very similar.

Both reports have stressed the need for a stronger, more streamlined Commission, with fewer commissioners (only one from each country), fewer directorates-general, more coordination between departments, and more authority specifically for the president, who should directly control the key portfolios of finance and personnel. The president should also have more say than at present over the choice of his fellow-commissioners. The Commission should be more independent of the Council of Ministers, and have stronger links to the Parliament. And the Council itself should improve its efficiency, and delegate more responsibility to the EEC ambassadors in Brussels (the so-called Committee of Permanent Representatives, or *Coreper*).

Mr Roy Jenkins, facing a crisis in his final year as commission president . . .

The Dell Report, commissioned by the French President on behalf of the Council, was briefly discussed at the Dublin summit and referred back for full consideration at the next European Council meeting in February. Since this meeting is also supposed to settle the British budgetary problem, and will also presumably have to try to resolve the conflict with the Parliament, the agenda already looks charged. It would be a great pity if the report gets the same dusty reception as the last report on Europe's future commissioned by the European Council, the Tindemans Report. But it would not be altogether astonishing.

This means that it is all the more important for Mr Jenkins and his colleagues to act on the report which they commissioned in parallel, the Spierenburg Report (on which the British representative was Mr. Dick Taverne). This report goes rather further in some of its recommendations, but the general approach is similar. Each report challenges the fiefdoms which have been allowed to grow up within the Brussels hierarchy, and seeks to give a reformed Commission more authority to steer the European ship. . .

This is a reversal of the trend of recent years, during which the Commission has steadily lost power to the Council. But the Council, reflecting as it does the conflicting interests of the member-states, has shown that it cannot give the European Community the sense of direction it needs. The two present conflicts over the budget merely represent the cumulation of years of frustration and lack of direction. Unless this trend is reversed, whatever happens over the present disputes the Community is unlikely to survive as a serious entity much into the 1980s.

New words and new meanings

The cowboy goes west

Cowboy as epithet has come down in the world as fast as the *cowboy* as cattleman used to spur down the last stage of the trail drive into Abilene to the consolations of the district known as the Devil's Addition.

It has become an insult for the reckless driver of a juggernaut lorry rather than a prairie schooner: the kind of *cowboy* who thunders past you on the inside lane and then cuts across. Each for himself, and God for us all, as the elephant said when he danced among the chickens.

Your modern repulsive *cowboy* does not have to be on wheels, though it helps. Since the 1950s *cowboy* has been a derogatory appellation for Teddy boys and other wild young men. Conversely in the argot of these modern *cowboys*, it has become a name for the police: "*They* didn't seem to me like *cowboys*. I can smell a copper in the dark, a hundred feet away, blindfolded".

The latest extension of *cowboy* as epithet is to mean an untrained or inefficient performer. The garden of the Bishop of Truro has been peppered by golf balls from the adjacent golf course. When questioned by the press, members of the golf club blamed the trouble on "*cowboys* who do not know how to play properly". This is a pretty example of dangerous driving.

In a similar extension of the metaphor, in Southern Rhodesia *opponents of the* Rhodesian Front regime used to call it the *cowboy* government. Another new use of *cowboy* is to describe a crooked tradesman, the sort of man who takes your deposit and never turns up to mend the bath.

Less than a generation ago your *cowboy* was king of the wild western in his regalia of stetson and chaparreras, tumbling *down* the Santa Fe trail as eternally as the tumbleweed, dying with his boots on, shouldering through the swing-doors of the saloon into the sudden silence of a new town, drawing against death in the empty high-noon street, and performing all the other errantries that a *cowboy* had to do, like riding off into the Technicolor sunset leaving the girl behind, while the music by Dmitri Tiomkin swelled like a williwaw in the high sierras.

He could ride a bucking bronco and throw a lasso, the dude's name for a lariat, with enviable dexterity.

What in the name of St *Martha Jane Cannary* can have happened to turn the poor *cowboy* from hero to villain in so short a time, so that to be called a *cowboy* has become a shooting insult? For one thing there has been a shift in the genre of westerns towards realism (showing that in the the real West the life of *cowboy* was solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short) and towards message (showing sympathy for the Indians, the Mexicans, the rustlers, and the cowards).

For another, the *cowboy* may be said to be reverting to type rather than declining from a golden age. Before Hollywood made him a hero, the *cowboy* had a disreputable past. *Cowboy* originally came into the language as an opprobrious name for Tory terrorists fighting with no holds barred on the British side during the American Revolutionary war. Its next use was as a term of contempt for a gang of wild riders under the leadership of a certain Ewen Cameron, who specialized in murdering Mexicans soon after Texas became an independent state in 1835.

When he came to mean cattleman, *cowboy* was still rough and wild. Try anything once, except incest, folk-dancing, and *cowboys*. Until the Hollywood dream-machine white-washed him, *cowboy* was a dirty word. Consequently our new use of *cowboy* as insult is not new but agreeably historical.

Philip Howard

The boy who escaped from the Valley of Witches

Two generations look out over their native land: B. L. Coombes and his son, Peter, photographed by Picture Post in January, 1941

On January 4, 1941, *Picture Post* magazine published one of its many sombrely-uplifting contributions to morale in wartime Britain. Long before the tide had visibly turned, *Picture Post* was looking ahead to a nation at peace, and presumably victorious, whose probable shape, in industry, planning, education, even leisure, was discussed by such contemporary sages as Maxwell Fyfe and J. B. Priestley.

Being *Picture Post*, this special number, A Plan for Britain, was launched by means of a powerful and poignant visual image.

A South Wales miner, B. L. Coombes, had sent in an article, as he modestly said, "about life as it looks to me and my mates". The prose, however, was that of an instinctive writer, goaded to passionate and lucid anger by national absurdities which sound familiar today.

Even in deepest wartime, many mines stood idle, there being no "market" for coal. The miner wondered why his home should be without fuel when from his window in Glamorgan he could see a mountain so full of coal that its seams cropped to daylight. He wondered why a country fighting for life should have no work for him in hale middle age, or for his 16-year-old son's inventive youth.

The article appeared in *Picture Post*, accompanied by a photograph of the miner, Bert Coombes, his son, Peter, and Sam their sheepdog on a coal tip near their home in the Vale of Neath. Together they seem to personify that quiet strength which comes to the British in crisis.

Peter Coombes remembers the day well, and the men from *Picture Post*. For Peter, in 1941, it was an adventure to go to Neath, six miles away. Swansea, distant and terrifyingly large, was the boundary of his understanding.

These men came from even farther, with their tripods, their strange, careless clothes and the accents that Glamorgan people could barely understand. They stood Peter next to his father on the tip and told him to look as if he was looking into the future.

The cloth-capped boy, posed beside the miner and dog in quiet companionship, had special cause to remember that day. It was the first and only time he ever went out of doors in his father's company or obtruded himself, without blame, on his father's attention. Whatever the future his father saw down the valley, Peter knew he could expect no share or place in it.

Bert Coombes was not, as *Picture Post* thought, a Welshman. He had come to Glamorgan in 1910 or thereabouts, driven down the causeway of hills from impoverished farming stock in Herefordshire. At Resolven, on the threshold of the Vale of Neath, he had wooed and married Peter's mother, a pit official's daughter, to her family's plainly-evinced displeasure. All through Peter's childhood, none of his maternal relatives would enter the house.

Nor was Bert Coombes's article dashed off spontaneously for his workmates' sake. He was, when *Picture Post* found him, an habitual writer with an all-consuming belief in his own literary genius. He had taken up writing during the General Strike in 1926, the year after Peter's birth. The boy's first memory was of his father's voice upstairs, angrily shouting for quiet.

The family lived then in Resolven, in a tiny cottage next to a pub whose noise drove Bert Coombes to frenzy in the book-filled front bedroom where he worked. No one in those days wanted his articles and short stories. A big old sea chest grew full to the brim with his manuscripts and rejection slips.

Peter grew up in a home ruled by the tormented absences of the thin, silent, chilly man who acknowledged his existence only insofar as it threatened concentration.

His mother, a gentle, deflated woman served meals on time and maintained the right of the man to tyrannize. The village disliked but faintly revered "that writer chap", pardoning Coombes his non-attendance at pub and Chapel and the ritual Sunday promenade.

When *Picture Post's* letter came, the family had moved from Resolven up the valley to a stone lodge on the edge of the old Vaughan estate. Peter's elder sister, by that time, had been driven by their father away into service and early marriage. Peter spent his days alone, pushing his soap box cart along the unfrequented road; becoming so skilled at birdsong that he could call even owls down to the back of the house.

Already they had heard sirens in Resolven and, later, seen the *big bombers flying low down* the Vale to attack Swansea. Bert Coombes being absent, as usual, Peter and his mother took a chair each and went and sat higher up in the woods. A sound like soft rain began as the bomb shrapnel fell among the trees.

The day the *Picture Post* men came, Peter was conscious of a first mutinous stirring within himself. He had noticed before how charming his father could be to callers, especially if they were literary people. He wondered, too, why the article implied that both father and son were unemployed. Bert Coombes still had his night maintenance job at the Empire colliery, and Peter had started work as a trainee garage hand. Most keenly the boy resented a passage where artistic licence betrayed his father's incomprehension of him. "My son", Coombes wrote, "is trying to make an aeroplane out of two old bicycles."

The article, and its haunting portrait, gave B. L. Coombes the recognition for which he had longed. He went on to write a book, *These Poor Hands*, an account of his mining experiences whose publication through Gollancz and the Left Book Club, guaranteed a sale of 100,000 copies.

Literary people sought out the eloquent miner for his solid, subterranean wisdom. To one, John Lehmann, Coombes gave Sam the sheepdog, Peter's adored friend. They took Sam to Neath and put him on a train for Bloomsbury.

Coombes had sworn, from tradition rather than concern, that Peter should never follow him underground. It was the boy's first act of insurrection to join the very pit where his father still worked, up in Cwm Gwarch, The Valley of Witches, under the coal mountain they could see from the Lodge windows.

The seams lay, in places, three miles below ground. To reach them by "spake", the man-carrying wagons, entailed a journey of half an hour. Down there, 20 horses worked, groomed to perfection in sightless stalls, and wild, blind cats dashed past on coal-heaped trucks.

When Peter came off shift, it was to equally back-breaking labour on a smallholding which B. L. Coombes had bought with his literary earnings. Father and son toiled alternately, by day and night, seldom meeting, on poor hill land yielding little but endless obligation. Each Friday Peter would hand over his pay packet and receive 10s for pocket money.

In 1946 he saw his escape. He deliberately failed to fill in Ministry of Labour forms relating to his two reserved occupations. Soon afterwards, he was called up for National Service.

The call-up went through despite Coombes's efforts to annul it, and a question in Parliament by the Glamorgan MP.

Peter joined the RAF, travelling to Warrington. It was the first time in his life he had not looked at mountains and valleys. To begin with, the flatness made him dizzy; he almost put out a hand to stop himself falling.

The Vale looks unchanged, save that some of the peaks have been lopped off for outcrop coal, and a fast road now rushes heavy traffic through to England, by-passing the old stone lodge. Resolven in its hollow has not stirred or altered but for the larger windows the houses now have. When windows were small, the streets used to be more sociable.

Peter Coombes takes the fast road to England in the 53-seat luxury coach he now drives for a living. He is 54, slight and dapper, with a beard he likes to call a Van Dyke and a dry, quiet line in coach-driver repartee. He points out the sights of Glamorgan as impartially as those of the Tyrol, which he frequently visits. There's the old abbey; and the murderer's stone. Back there is the place where his father lies buried. Peter does not visit the grave.

B. L. Coombes occurs in his thoughts only to be interrogated many years too late. "I often wonder if the man showed any affection in his life for *anyone*.

Peter's RAF service gave only temporary freedom. His true rebellion was in offering love. At a dance in Resolven he met a dark-eyed, cheerful girl named Sarah. Her family were steel people from Pontardawe. So great was Peter's dread of his father, he could not bring himself to mention Sarah at home until a week before they were due to marry. Bert Coombes by then owned a larger, even less prosperous smallholding at Glynneath: his only response to Peter's news was "How am I going to manage on my own?"

When Peter promised to live on at home, his father relented and bought him a wedding suit. His mother gave him £3 10s which she had saved by secretly putting half crowns down the side of the chair. And later, courage came to find a house of his own, in the main street at Pontardawe.

Sarah gave him five children, so that none would have to push a soap box cart alone. He left the mines in the only way you could under government regulations: by joining the prison service. The standing about was terrible, but it gave him his release, into bus-driving. Money was tight, of course. In those days, one did not worry so much. Days out in the Vale cost nothing. He can see, from his passing coach, the tracks the seven of them made together.

None of the children made any discernible impression on B. C. Coombes. Peter took them home to Glynneath regularly for the sake of his mother, endlessly loyal and patient, although, towards the end, even she began to rebel, quietly. Once, she showed Peter a bruise which his father had given her. Nor was it, apparently, the first time she had suffered physical ill-treatment.

When Coombes died, five years ago, Peter was away with a coach party in Llandudno. He did not come home for the funeral. Glancing at his father's birth certificate later, he found that it bore an unfamiliar name —not Bert Lewis Coombes but Bertram Louise Coombes Griffith. The motive for this *lifelong alias lies back in Here*fordshire, beyond the reach of the descendants it falsely baptised.

"Oh, he could write, no doubt about that. But it was all the same sort of writing. That book of his, *These Poor Hands* —that was a self-pitying name to call it. And he didn't really *like* mining. Even as a writer, he couldn't tell the truth. It still gets me what he wrote about me, 'trying to make an aeroplane out of two old bicycles'."

Peter lives by himself now, in a council flat with a view of another mountain, March Hywell. Sarah died in 1970, so suddenly it was almost painless.

He paints through the winter, when the coach trade stops—seascapes and waterfalls and clown faces, the things people like to see hanging in their homes. Two or three paintings, displayed in his front window, frequently attract a small crowd. He is happy, as his father could never have been, with that small drop of recognition.

His children: Roberts, Tony, Alan, Gillian and Lynette, are all grown up, all married. It pleases him that they do not need him, but work things out among themselves and tell him the result. He enjoys—as who would not? the politics of a family whose members, fundamentally, like each other's the dividend from affection he did not consciously invest.

Philip Norman

SPORTS DIARY

Unfestive days of football

There was not much to be said for playing football on Christmas morning but something for watching. As amelioration after a late Christmas Eve and a raucous dawn cracked asunder by the shrieks of excited children, the 11 o'clock kick-off dispersed the cobwebs. The matches were usually local in rivalry with plenty to bellow about and not always generous good will to all men.

Wrapped in new scarves and wielding rattles that offended the peace of the day, we went off to the match, leaving mother to slave over the turkey. We said it was to keep out of her way. A colleague is reminded that his mother was seethingly upset at his decision to attend an away match in a neighbouring town, thus missing lunch altogether.

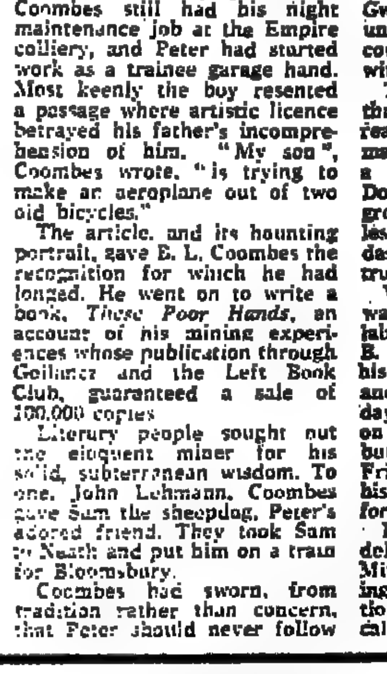
But as he left the house she seemed to be touched by the spirit of Christmas and offered a hamper for half-time. When he opened it he found three or four heavy books and a quarter of a round of cheese.

Others, more directly involved, were equally disgruntled at having the festivities broken by this custom of playing professional football on Christmas Day, often in the morning.

William Ralph "Dixie" Dean recalled the arduous Christmas week of 1927 in a book written a few years ago by Nick Walsh who sadly died shortly before publication. Dean recalled that Everton played three games in four days and four within the week. Considering the travel arrangements of those days it was, he said with some minimizing of the situation, a "much more intense itinerary in many ways than it is today".

The team travelled to London to play Arsenal and returned to Merseyside to meet Cardiff City on Boxing Day when Dean scored twice, taking his total to 33 from 21 games. On the following day Everton played at Cardiff and on New Year's eve were at Sheffield Wednesday. The journeys amounted to over 1,000 rail miles.

That was the season in which Dean scored 60 goals in the league and a total of 100 in all competitions. Ironically, Bill Dean, as he has always liked to be known, would have no travelling problems, if he played today. He now lives not a free-kick away from the M56 at Upton but is in poor health and rarely leaves home. Modern football has not found a contemporary centre forward to be compared with the one our former football correspondent, Geoffrey Green, once called "the greatest of all time."



"Dixie" Dean: 1,000 rail miles

Safety valve for the canon

I am reminded by one of football's most devoted followers, Canon Reg Smith, that these Christmas holiday fixtures regularly produced what he calls "freak results". A director and dedicated worker for Bury Town, he recalls that his own club lost 5—0 at home one Christmas Day and won 5—1 against the same team on Boxing day. He claims no credit or influence since his steadying hand was not upon them in those days.

He would not have attended the Christmas Day game and would not do so if such fixtures were revived for though he says his enthusiasm for sport is such that in the absence of anything more organized he would play marbles on the church steps he says it is the special day when his devotion to Bury takes second place to his belief in the significance of the family occasion.

"Being a cathedral choirboy for 12 years and being involved in the church for 30, I have never been able to go to a match on Christmas Day in any case, but I am pleased that the decision to stop came from the players. They, like most people, sense the underlying importance of Christmas and Sunday. When football was played on those days the atmosphere was always different, more restrained."

My more cynical regard for *many professional footballers* makes me think that few had such high principled thoughts for the religious festival but we cannot deny them their family day and as for the Canon, he serves God and Gigg Lane (the Bury ground) with a wonderful enthusiasm that glows in these days of greed within the game. His love of football and his witty speeches have made him quite famous and in demand.

A former Manchester University captain, he played until he was 50 "and then the linesman overtook me twice so I decided it was time to retire".

He is really a Bolton man with a natural sympathy for Wanderers but he loves Bury Town. They invited him on to their small board of directors because, as he says, they wanted someone with integrity who knew something about football.

"It was a Godsend", he told me. "It provides me with a safety valve. I can put something back into the game and it makes a break from my normal everyday routine—the slog of work. When I am at a match it is my only time off."

Not that his responsibilities are confined to watching matches. He looks after the social club ("because I am supposed to know something about *personal relations*") and can usually be seen in the forecourt before games dealing with the police or others who have problems.

"Sometimes one of the youngsters will say something in the dressing room and then turn and say 'sorry, rector', and if we are losing someone else may tell me my prayer mat is not working, but the youngsters are splendid."

Sagas of the north-west

Liverpool's football against Manchester United on Boxing Day was well worth travelling a long way to enjoy. Both of these clubs attract supporters from far afield. Stories abound of extraordinary journeys undertaken to see a football match at Anfield or Old Trafford and last season I heard of an Australian who arrived on Thursday, watched Liverpool on Saturday and flew home on Monday carrying no more to show for his visit than a programme and a cheap lapel badge.

There is a large contingent of Irish-Liverpool supporters. On Boxing Day a group flew over from Dublin and promised to present themselves at the coach upon the final whistle. Obediently, they were there on time and the coach sped to the airport where the plane was waiting. Unfortunately, the cabin staff, including the pilot, had not been able to tear themselves away from the exciting match and missed the bus.

No doubt it was the resourceful Peter Robinson, Liverpool's ever efficient secretary, who persuaded taxi drivers to battle against the crush to reunite crew and travellers.

Value for money

Freak Christmas results may indicate more about the digestion of the footballers than their true ability, but they have given some fortunate spectators unusual value for their money. Scott Cheshire, a life-long active Chelsea supporter despite now living near Stoke-on-Trent, remembers the Christmas of 1963 with the satisfaction that comes of being one of the fortunate few who decided to watch two matches in London on Boxing Day and saw 21 goals.

He chose West Ham United against Blackburn Rovers in the morning. Blackburn, then top of the first division, won 8—2 at Upton Park with Pickering and McEvoy scoring three each. "Then I decided to battle over to Craven Cottage to see Fulham play Ipswich Town in the afternoon.

"Ipswich were then bottom of the first division. If Chelsea had been playing nearer town I would have seen them but they were at Blackpool. Fulham won 10—1, Leggat scored four and Howfield three. The Fulham team included Cohen, Mullery, Robson and Haynes".

But that was not the end of this Christmas story for 48 hours later West Ham played at Blackburn and won 3—1 and two days later Ipswich beat Fulham 4—2 at Portman Road. Scott, a retired schoolmaster with an eye for football statistics, may never again see so many goals in one day but Chelsea, now managed by Geoff Hurst who was with West Ham in those days, are scoring often enough to keep him entertained.

Norman Fox

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A MORE DANGEROUS DECADE

he world as a whole devoted out £212,000m to military penditure in 1978. This is four mes as much as in 1960, or venty per cent more at constant ices. The trend is unlikely to ve changed in 1979. The fastest se has been among developing untries, the steadiest that of e Warsaw Pact, but Nato still tspends all other groups. eanwhile about 660 million ople in the world cannot afford sic necessities and something e eight million children died 1979 from hunger or illnesses ated to malnutrition. Yet the ld's population continues to w faster each year.

Figures such as these, taken m a report sponsored by the rld Council of Churches, tell at least three things. First, s only in the advanced coun- s of the West that the central erience of the 1970s was the overy that the party was : for most of the world the y never began. Second, man- d is quite extraordinarily bad managing its affairs in a spirit enlightened self-interest. d, but not least, the world become a more dangerous e in the 1970s.

lse hopes burst

oking back it is extraordi- how many false hopes rose bubbles in the 1960s to burst e 1970s. The United States ght it could police the world; Khrushchev thought he could ake the United States; rman Mao and his disciples e West thought they had d a new true road to commu- ; Fidel Castro thought he set Latin America ablaze revolution; Mr Dubcek ht he could reform commu- with Soviet consent; the nts of the western world ht they could transform own societies; Mr Wilson ht the white heat of tech- y could forge a new Britain; rn consumers thought they on an endless escalator to erity; western statesmen ht that with enlightened rogrammes this prosperity be shared with the third ; and gradually there was a burgeoning hope that as unism mellowed the super s could bridge their differ- sufficiently to bring the secure and lasting peace.

course the decade was not at as that. Disillusion was y setting in earlier, and world's two main models already losing adherents as nited States sank deeper is defeat in Vietnam and viet Union invaded Czecho- ia. But it was in 1973 that crisis impressed upon the mind a really acute sense limits not only on material- ces but on the ability of endeavour to solve the roblems before it—the shortage, inflation, unem- ent, poverty and war. bly the seventies are abelled the decade of lost s and even if the illusion itless prosperity was en- oy only a few small privi- areas of the globe the sm that radiated out from areas raised expectations developing world as well. he end of the seventies nodel has proved flawed; bright revolution has to corrupt savagery or grey normalcy; and although the solid centres of the world's democracies have held much better than many people expected there is little sign of the confidence which this ought to engender. The feeling persists that problems are accumulating faster than man's ability to cope with them, that irrationality is a stronger force in world affairs than many had bargained for, and above all that the two super powers are failing to live up to the responsibilities which their power imposes on them. It is this last factor which makes the looming energy shortage even more menacing than it would otherwise be.

The agreements signed by Mr Nixon and Mr Brezhnev in 1972 were always flawed by the fact that they papered over different concepts of détente. The Soviet Union claimed the right to continue manoeuvring for advantage; the United States clung to unreal hopes of a stable world. Nevertheless, even limited areas of agreement and cooperation were better than none, and there was reason to hope that competition between the two powers could gradually become less dangerous. Not everything from those days has been lost—among other things the governmental apparatus of each state probably understands the other a great deal better than before—but there remain gulfs of mistrust and misapprehension. Mutual confidence has certainly declined, and so has the confidence of each power in its ability to influence events.

Soviet build-up

The Soviet Union has used the seventies for a steady build-up of its military power which has brought it level with the United States in some respects and ahead in others. The uses to which this power can be put are being demonstrated in Africa and in Afghanistan. In Europe it will be overwhelming if Nato's modernization programme falters. With a tightly closed system of government approaching an unpredictable change of leadership the West cannot risk putting the most generous interpretation on these changes. It may well be that the build-up represents no more than the over-insurance which has always been traditional in Russia. Perhaps it also represents a compensation for the steadily failing ideological appeal and inner confidence of the Soviet Union. If the "scientific laws of history" can no longer be relied upon it becomes more necessary to give them a push, and if people do not want your ideology they may still be interested in your weapons. Nevertheless, the West must respond to the military facts, and these are worrying.

The United States is proving in its different way as unpredictable as the Soviet Union. It too is facing a contest for the leadership, though fortunately in the open. More worrying is the fact that since the defeat in Vietnam it has lacked a generally agreed concept for dealing with the Soviet Union. Dr Kissinger was frequently at odds with Congress; now there are divisions both within the Administration and within Congress. Public opinion has swung from total reluctance to support any American interventions abroad to an almost bellicose response to events in Iran. Mr Carter has abandoned his earlier hopes of substantial arms reductions to the extent of asking for five per cent more money for defence, and he is training special forces for possible intervention abroad.

This in itself is not to be criticized, but taken over the past decade American policy has been insufficiently steady to inspire confidence in either allies or adversaries. This is exemplified by the extraordinary spectacle of a relatively modest treaty on limiting strategic weapons, negotiated under three presidents, remaining stalled in the Senate. To put it bluntly, a major nation whose governmental system cannot negotiate, sign and ratify an international treaty in reasonably good time and order must carry a lot of the blame for relationships that go sour. It is, as the Americans say, no way to run a railroad.

Lessons for both

Yet even if the two super powers were on better terms they would probably still feel that the world was slipping from their grasp. Both are now aware of how difficult it is to translate their power into effective political influence. The Americans have seen themselves defeated in Vietnam, humiliated in Iran and only to a very limited extent able to bring peace to the Middle East. As the dollar falls they slowly face the implications of their dependence on foreign oil. Their feeling of being uniquely favoured among nations is weakening.

The Russians are going through a comparable experience. They are no longer able to fit the world into ideological categories. In Africa, Iran, the Middle East and eastern Europe there are forces at work which, even if they sometimes swing the tide in favour of the Soviet Union, cannot be controlled or predicted. As their economic growth slows almost to a halt they must also be losing the feeling of being masters of their own fate. The socialist world turns out to be as vulnerable and as intractable as the rest.

There could scarcely be a worse moment for the super powers to be feeling both helpless and on bad terms with each other. World demand for energy and some vital raw materials is rising faster than supply and there is no prospect of early change. This points straight to competition for scarce resources. There are few easier ways of stumbling into war. Given the diffusion of power in the world, the difficulty of controlling client states, and the dangerous proliferation of nuclear weapons, it is too much to expect the Soviet Union and the United States to keep the peace alone, but a great deal can still depend on whether they work together or against each other. Their rivalry is irreconcilable to the extent that it is not only about power but about genuinely different views of the nature of man and society, but it cannot be in the interests of either to carry it to the point of endangering peace. More through the failure of good intentions than the triumph of bad, that point looks nearer now than it did ten years ago.

of the River Plate

r G. M. Watson

m glad to read for the first more accurate account of the ere in the River Plate area ime Graf Spee was scuttled December 13).

e "man in the street", well d by press, radio and there was no question but r the horizon there lay, wait- Graf Spee to emerge and ttle, Achilles, Ajax, the gunned replacement for from the Falklands and, ll, Dunkerque which out- Graf Spee. Moreover, Ark nd I think it was Renown unding down from the vici- Rio. Of course it was all was shown a few days later k Royal and Renown turned Rio, having been pounding om Capetown. All credit to iralty.

other hand, I am sorry to at the wrecking of Graf re control is only a myth. here was no public question t. Ajax knew the Punta del well, having regularly had practice there. When she lles were trailing Graf Spee e coast (Exeter being a ce by then), Ajax, from her astern, slipped into terri- aters behind the Isla de put on full speed and ahead of Graf Spee. From age position she got in the alvo which put Graf Spee's control out of action.

firmation were needed of it was readily available at and only hotel overlooking e. There, under the plate the reception desk, could a fully detailed plan of the mplete with all movements ps inside the smoke screens ost complicated they were must remember that, for guayans, this was "our for they had nailed their r mast from the very outset r—and all honour to them stout support.

, there was no certainty e intentions of Captain ff until nearly the end. e lay out in Montevideo not at dockside. She had sea when war was declared and had a large number of trainee crew aboard. They had never been under fire before and reputedly had not shown up very well. It was not clear whether the crew was being thinned down or reduced to skeleton level.

On leaving harbour, Graf Spee went up the usual dredged channel, but when, a mile or so up, she turned to starboard over the shallows towards Buenos Aires, it became clear she was going to be scuttled. For many years the wreck was clearly visible from the night ferry which went over the shallows, but it had disappeared when I last flew over the scene in 1963. As indeed it had from public memory, for the aircrew had not the slightest idea what I was talking about!

Yours faithfully,
G. M. WATSON,
54 Eaton Mews South, SW1.
December 13.

Assault on Mr Docherty

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, A serious issue is raised by your leader (December 11) on what you call the "strange and hasty" decision of the police not to prosecute hooligans who attacked and seriously injured Mr Tommy Docherty. In its legislative processes, Parliament spends much time and trouble deciding which acts and omissions should be punishable as crimes, and what the maximum punishments should be. But it does nothing about the equally important question of when crimes should be prosecuted, and when not.

In the 1960s, the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis adopted a policy of not prosecuting gaming clubs and (at the instance of Mr Raymond Blackburn) was rebuked for doing so by the Court of Appeal. Also in the 1960s, the Southend police adopted a policy of not prosecuting shoplifters and were rebuked for doing so in a House of Lords debate. After the Sexual Offences Act, 1967, had decriminalized consenting homosexual acts by adults in England and Wales the prosecuting authorities in Scotland adopted a similar policy, although the law there was unaltered. There continues to be criticism of this policy in Scotland. These examples illustrate the confusion that prevails.

Apart from general prosecution policy, there are many reasons why specific offences are not prosecuted. A prosecution may cause disproportionate harm by fomenting labour unrest, or add to the distress of a victim of crime, or harm an offender who is in poor health or of advanced years. It may be in the interests of justice to spare a criminal who is prepared to turn Queen's evidence, or would not otherwise travel from abroad to testify, or is to be exchanged for hostages. The prosecuting authority may consider an offence technical or obsolete, or for other reasons not worth prosecuting. He cannot in any case prosecute more than a small fraction of offences, because of limitations of manpower and other resources.

I suggest the time has come for Parliament to work out detailed principles of enforcement policy and embody them in a Penal Enforcement Act. Obviously this must leave room for discretion, but prosecuting authorities would have the broad guidance they need to satisfy the public interest and produce fairness and consistency. I have made detailed recommendations to this end in evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCIS BENNION,
24 St Aubyns,
Hove,
East Sussex.

Zionism and Israel

From Mr D. D. Keats

Sir, Mr Asquith (December 22) does not think that "the elimination of Zionism" would also mean the elimination of "Israel".

Has he ever visited Israel?

Has he not a copy of the Oxford English Dictionary, which defines "Zionism" as noun "for movement resulting in re-establishment of a Jewish nation in Israel"?

Yours faithfully,
D. D. KEATS,
2 Heathgate, NW1.
December 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Placing of the new airport

From Mr W. D. Peters

Sir, As a member of the Advisory Committee on Airport Policy, I feel I can now comment upon the recommendations made by that body and the decision announced by the Government.

All through the debate on the need for and placing of a new airport, two matters have been constantly ignored or under-played. Firstly is the desirable economic effects that an airport can have and, secondly, the advantageous or disastrous effects it can have on regional planning in any area.

The development of Stansted, even over an elongated period, would clearly be the opposite to what was intended in the South East Regional Plan. That document was prepared in full consultation with the Government and local authorities in that region and is a very well rehearsed and properly documented policy.

What is often forgotten is that there is as much cost in money terms and certainly as much effect, in the provision of housing, schools and other facilities that would be needed to service the airport in any situation and the unhappy effects which would be created around the Stansted area.

My main argument however, rests on the fact that I have never been convinced: (a) that the airport needed to be in the South East Region, and (b) that the advantageous economic effects on the diversion of air traffic to other regions has been investigated to any great extent.

I know that the examinations of the short-listed sites in the South East Region have been exhaustive and far reaching. Similar investigations of any depth have never taken place on airports or sites outside the South East.

It would now seem from the Government statement that many of the doubts about the timing of the need for an airport or its ultimate capacity, are accepted by the Minister. He accepts the argument that I have pursued now over several years that we must make full use of existing assets, in particular those at regional airports.

I would have thought that whilst it is absolutely necessary to remove from the other sites in the South East the potential blighting which indecision may cause, nevertheless, before any build-up or reservation of new land at Stansted is undertaken, the full effects on regional planning and the true costs of urban expansion should be set in the balance.

Referring back to the economic expansion argument, I understand from your own columns of December 19 that, from the latest tables of unemployment, in the West Midlands the percentage of unemployment is 50 per cent above that in the South-East.

In the siting and timing of the need for the airport, we are considering the major investment decision remaining this century. As a person now working in the West Midlands and knowing its difficulties, I would suggest that the economic benefits of such an airport either in the West Midlands or some other region outside the South East need to be fully investigated before the Stansted decision is committed.

There are many positive arguments yet to be considered; I remain unconvinced that we need to put all the economic growth potential in the South East.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. PETERS,
Green Roof,
Church Lane,
Lower Broadheath,
Near Worcester.

Blank expression

From Mr R. G. Norton

Sir, Allais' *Anaemic Girls*, Mr Kington (December 24) is in error. This is undoubtedly a landscape painting in Caradec's book, where the caption was misplaced. The author was misled by the signature on the back of the painting, which has been placed parallel to the long edge. But, as Allais himself said in a letter to Mlle Virginie Ducarré, now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, this was a piece of mischief on his part. The actual painting was made in the portrait format.

More regrettable is that the *Modern Reconstruction* is the wrong shape. I have been able to determine that the example at the Academy is approximately 17 millimetres too short, which makes a nonsense of M Allais' carefully contrived proportions. I should like to see this corrected before the exhibition closes. In matters of this kind, expense should not become a consideration.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. NORTON
The Old Rectory,
Monks Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.
December 24.

First-class post

From Mr M. R. L. Robinson

Sir, On Wednesday, December 12, we discovered that my wife's 10-year passport had just expired. We were due to leave for abroad the following week.

I telephoned the Passport Office, Monmouth. I was told to obtain a renewal form from a post office, to complete and send it with the old passport, two photographs and the remittance to the Passport Office, Monmouth, marking the envelope "Very Urgent". I did so. The letter caught the 18.15 post from Church Stretton for recorded delivery.

The new passport arrived at our fairly remote hill village just over 36 hours later by first post Friday, December 14.

We often decry ourselves. How agreeable to be able to record such efficiency, especially at the time of Christmas mails and when passport offices are busy, which few, if any countries could match.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. L. ROBINSON,
Minton House,
nr Church Stretton,
Shropshire.
December 16.

Protecting individual liberty

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, Like your main leading article on December 18, I greatly deplore the two recent decisions in the House of Lords in the case of Express Newspapers v MacShane and Commissioner of Inland Revenue v Rossminster Limited. Not a day passes without some fresh erosion of the rights of the subject, and our Supreme Court has recently exhibited a degree of pusillanimity in its defence of individual liberty against the constantly growing power of the state and the big battalions and, indeed, also in its interpretation of the criminal law as in a recent Companies Act case where only two out of the five lords of appeal showed much practical appreciation of the issues involved.

In the Express Newspapers case, moreover, I fear that the crumb of comfort which you sought to derive from the speeches of the learned Lords of Appeal has little substance. It is not, I think, the case, as you suggest, that four out of five of their lordships "rejected the purely subjective test" of whether what was done was in furtherance of a trade dispute. As I read their opinions, only Lord Wilberforce decided that there must be an objective test, although I find it hard to conclude whether Lord Salmon inclined to the objective or subjective view. It would, however, be very difficult to find in Lord Diplock's opinion any "inadvertence" on this most important point and the fact is that the three law lords constituting the majority held that the test was subjective. The result must therefore be presumed to be that if the trade union officials concerned honestly (although mistakenly) believe that what they are doing is in furtherance of a trade dispute, the law will not intervene to protect the subject however shockingly illegal their conduct might be if done by others. As you rightly say, the law so interpreted must be intolerable.

As for the Rossminster case, the crumb of comfort, if such it is, which you find in the opinions is, I am afraid, equally meagre. You prefer the judgment of Lord Salmon yet Lord Salmon did not dissent from the majority on the ground that the Statute did not permit "early morning raids" of the kind complained of but on the much narrower and more technical ground that the learned Common Serjeant who authorised the warrant had not satisfied himself that there was reasonable ground for suspecting that any tax fraud has been committed in the particular case. This, like several other assumptions in the learned law lords' opinion seems to have little support in the evidence and was, I think, not even suggested in the courts below nor argued in the House. It appears to be contrary to the fact and is quite unfair to the Common Serjeant. The real mischief of the decision is one for which all five law lords share responsibility and is, as you correctly observe, that it involves a judicial interpretation which diminishes rather than protects "the rights of the individual against potentially oppressive conduct by the more powerful."

It is well that Lord Denning and a few others should raise more robust voices in protection of those rights even if, as in these two cases, they seem to be raised in vain. We need now and have, indeed, for some time, a bill of human rights to reaffirm these individual liberties and electoral reform to ensure that the will of the electors is fairly represented in Parliament. If we had the second we would get the first.

Yours truly,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
33 Lombard Street, EC3.
December 27.

Answering Vatican charges

From the Reverend Stephen Harris

Sir, Your Religious Affairs Correspondent, Mr Longley, reports only that four leading Anglicans were approached by *The Times* for comment on the Vatican ban on Professor Hans Küng (December 20). Does he forget that Dr Küng regards the essential renewal of his church as "fulfilling the justified demands of Lutherans, Calvinists, Orthodox, Anglicans and Free Churchmen in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ"? Dr Küng's Free Church readers have been as enthusiastic as any. He even claims for the Roman Church the tradition of reform, quoting, among other things, the summoning of the Fourth Lateran Council by Pope Innocent III *propter reformationem universalis Ecclesiae*.

Since his book, *On being a Christian*, appeared in English translation three years ago, it has been the most comprehensive, readable, incisive and scriptural apology for the historic faith available from any tradition for ministers to put into the hands of laymen. Such a voice cannot be silenced; but I grieve for the Church that any attempt should be made to do so.

Hans Küng's final paragraph headed "Human existence transfigured by Christian existence" is the latest restatement of the great tradition of Christian humanism. I commend it, Sir, to your readers as a singularly appropriate nutshell at this season of great joy.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HARRIS,
The United Reformed Church,
Harrold,
Bedford.
December 20.

From Dr A. J. Morris

Sir, It is particularly saddening that the magisterium of the Catholic Church should choose to restrict the teaching activities of Dr Hans Küng. As a scientist, I have been trained, and am naturally inclined, to question all received knowledge, including the Catholic faith which I profess and practise. Once the process of inquiry commences, it sometimes becomes clear that there is an apparent conflict between the scientific outlook and many of the tenets of religion. The doubts which are thereby evoked need resolution and in this situation one turns to the theological community for aid. Unfortunately, most theologians fail to address the relevant questions, perhaps through a lack of scientific training and background.

Such remarks cannot be levelled against Dr Küng who, in the course of his writings, has faced many of the issues directly in a spirit of scientific inquiry. The answers given may not be complete but they do point in the right direction and indicate ways of resolving the conflict. At the very least, one sees in this type of robust inquiry that here is a man who really does believe that religion is not just the invention of the human mind and can, therefore, withstand any genuine probing. I wonder if those who seek to restrain him have as great a faith.

Yours faithfully,
A. MORRIS,
12 Closeworth Road,
Farnborough,
Hampshire.
December 19.

From Mr Eliot Hodgkin

Sir, Mr Patrick Wall writes (December 27) "we all want to see the reunion of Christendom". Why is this always assumed? A Gallup Poll on the subject would be interesting.

Yours sincerely,
ELIOT HODGKIN,
9 Durham Place,
Chelsea, SW3.
December 27.

EEC aid to Ireland

From Mr John D. Taylor, MEP for Northern Ireland (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, The Government must be congratulated for its veto of the EEC proposals for distribution of the Non-Quota Section of the Regional Fund. The Quota Section gives a 27 per cent allocation to the UK and it was hoped that in order to strengthen Community investment and regional development in the poorer nations, the new Non-Quota Section would have given the UK more than 27 per cent. Alas, there was no such provision and instead the Non-Quota allocation was being increased for richer nations such as France.

Likewise the Non-Quota proposals for the cross frontier scheme between the UK and the Republic of Ireland are discriminatory. In the Republic of Ireland, all five counties along the frontier were to be aided by £10 million, whereas in the UK, only specially selected district areas within the four counties, along the frontier were to be aided by £5 million.

As a Member of the Regional Policy Committee, I enquired why there was not to be £10 million for the UK as there was for the Republic of Ireland and I was told that this would be impossible as it would increase the UK's share of the Non-Quota Scheme to over 27 per cent. Likewise, when I queried the proposal not to aid the frontier counties in Northern Ireland, as was the basis in the Republic of Ireland, I discovered that this was a previous arrangement agreed between the last Labour Government and the Dublin Government. The net result of this arrangement is that the cross frontier scheme in the UK was to be limited to seven districts, six of which have pro-republican majorities, and that the other five within the UK frontier counties have been excluded. Needless to say, all five excluded districts have pro-British majorities. The suggestion that this EEC cross frontier proposal should be restricted to encourage tourist development and rural crafts in such areas as Crossmaglen, Carrickmore or the Bogside is discrimination at its worst. It is unfortunate that the last Labour Government agreed to this Dublin proposal.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN D. TAYLOR,
Mellbourne,
Armagh,
Northern Ireland.
December 19.

The abominable snowmen

From Wing Commander Bentley Beauman

Sir, Since I first raised the question of the Abominable Snowmen in your letter columns on July 17, 1937, there have been at least 20 reliable sightings of mysterious tracks in the snows of the Himalaya, and strange cries have also been heard in the mountains which could not be accounted for. The latest of these was in the report of an RAF officer in your issue of December 24, 1979.

Many of the sightings have been made by mountaineers who have had wide experience of snow tracks in the high mountains such as Shipton, Smythe and Hunt. (Incidentally, I also saw some of these tracks during the Kamet Expedition in 1931.) In addition, a member of the Alpine Club has described how he saw at close quarters some one or some thing that might well have been a snowman. So, although the evidence so far has been almost entirely circumstantial, surely the time has now come to acknowledge the existence of this fascinating species?

Yours, etc.
E. BENTLEY BEAUMAN,
Hon Vice-President,
RAF Mountaineering Association,
59, Chester Row, SW1.

Behind closed doors

From The Master of Charterhouse

Sir, Your London Diary (December 27) gives welcome advance publicity for a book on Thackeray coming out next autumn, but in so doing conjures up an air of mystery and rediscovery not justified by the facts. It may well be true that Mrs Norman-Butler has not seen our Thackeray collection for over 30 years.

It is not true that the cupboard has been locked for years, or that "they have not been able to find the keys until now". A steady stream of researchers, often extremely learned and almost invariably courteous, applies to the Registrar or the Master for leave to examine the papers. Such leave, with the keys, is readily given, free of charge, and often, as on this occasion, further material is made available.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER VAN OSS,
Charterhouse, EC1.
December 27.

A new site for the British Library

From Professor Hugh Thomas, and others

Sir, The Department of the Environment is proposing to sell the reserve property held by Her Majesty's Government in Bloomsbury. If this is done, it will be far more difficult for Her Majesty's Government to reconsider the whole problem of resiting the British Library.

The present plans for such resiting will be enormously costly and are vigorously opposed as positively harmful by many men of letters and scholars, and others who use the Library.

A report setting out detailed objections and making alternative proposals has been sent to the Minister for the Arts. No reply to the arguments has been received, although these proposals would save at least £200 million (as well as large and increasing running costs) and would preserve Panizzi's Reading Room and the King's Library for their original purpose.

We know how difficult it is to reconsider plans already approved, but this is an important national issue. We urge the Government not to tie their hands by an early sale of the Bloomsbury site, remembering that the Conservative Manifesto included both reduction of public expenditure and preservation of the national heritage.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Thomas,	Philip Oaskell,
Hugh Trevor-Roper,	Alistair Horne,
J. A. Shapiro,	E. J. Hobsbawm,
John Hale,	J. Mordaunt Crook,
Shirley Letwin,	E. Kedourie,
M. H. F. Wilkins,	Anthony Sampson,
Antonia Fraser,	Jonathan Miller,
C. Veronica Wedgwood,	Paul Johnson,
John Betjeman	

29 Ladbroke Grove, W11.
December 22.

Taking cycles by rail

From Mr P. M. Haydon

Sir, I refer to the recent article about the conveyance of bicycles by train (December 7).

The free cycle scheme was introduced in 1977 with the object of promoting optional and leisure rail travel by cyclists.

With two years' experience of the scheme behind us, we have found that an increasing number of commuters have been using the facility to bring their cycles into London and this has created considerable problems at peak times. Our main task in London and the South East is the mass movement of people, and rolling stock is designed with limited van space or in some cases none at all, in order to make the maximum amount of room available for passengers.

There have been:

(i) delays to trains because of the loading and unloading of cycles.

(ii) conflict between passengers and cycles on platforms, staircases and at barriers.

(iii) many examples of inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists, who ride across concourses and along platforms.

The situation is further complicated by the introduction of new rolling stock with sliding doors, which has no guard's van.

In the interests, therefore, of the majority of our customers, we have found it necessary to impose a ban on cycle conveyance at peak times in 1980. Restrictions are not applied lightly and we shall be reviewing the situation later in 1980.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. HAYDON,
Passenger Manager (Marketing),
222 Marylebone Road, NW1.
December 21.

Selling the Warwick Vase

From Mr Alec Clifton-Taylor

Sir, If Glasgow City Council is really so hard pressed to find the money to house the Burrell Collection (report, December 24) there is, I would suggest, one object which might be sold without detracting in any way from the overall quality of that marvellous assembly of *objets d'art*, and that is the Warwick Vase.

A more unBurrell-like object it would be difficult to find. I do not believe that Sir William would have considered for a moment acquiring so absurd a piece: an example of *folie de grandeur*, surely, that has very little to do with art.

If it is true that American museums were interested, why, even now, stand in their way?

Yours faithfully,
ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR,
15 Clareville Grove, SW7.
December 24.

Undipped headlights

From Mr J. A. Humphrey

Sir, The part of Peter Waymark's article today (December 21) detailing new equipment to be installed in vehicle testing stations, particularly the new facilities for checking headlamp alignment, is encouraging. However, in my experience a car passing me with its headlights dipped resolutely towards the tree-tops is more than likely to be less than three years old, has not seen the inside of a MOT testing station and therefore will presumably light up the night sky for a full three years before its first compulsory check.

A vehicle goes through a pre-delivery check by the dealer; the motoring organizations have headlamp testing facilities; an individual may take note of signals received from oncoming drivers—but there is no compulsion. Is there scope here for a "mini-MOT" test before a new car is allowed on the road?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. HUMPHREY,
Herons,
Anglesea Road,
Wivenhoe,
Essex.

Long lease

From Mr A. L. Lowth

Sir, I have always understood a long lease to be for say 99 or 999 years, I now know differently. I have just received a draft lease to approve on behalf of a client—it has been typed on continuous but perforated computer paper and measures 24ft in length!

Yours faithfully,
A. L. LOWTH,
Lamport Bassitt and Hiscock,
46 The Avenue,
Southampton.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will attend the 125th anniversary thanksgiving service of the Young Women's Christian Association in Westminster Abbey on February 13.

The Prince of Wales will attend the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers Club at Guildhall on February 4.

The Duke of Kent, honorary president of the Royal Geographical Society, will attend the geographical lecture and dinner at the society's hall, Kensington Gore, on February 14.

The Duchess of Kent, as Controller Commandant, will attend the Women's Royal Army Corps conference at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, on February 12.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, will visit Leeds University on February 7.

Birthdays Today

Sir Richard Beaumont, 67; General Sir Robert Ford, 56; Mr H. Andrew Freeth, 67; Mr Gilbert Hunt, 65; Dr Magnus Pyke, 71.

TOMORROW: Professor Sir Hedley Atkins, 74; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 66; General Sir David Fraser, 59; Viscount Gage, 84; Sir Reginald Groom, 73; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Hudleston, 71; Sir John Prideaux, 68; Sir Albert Robinson, 64; Lord Taylor, 69; Lord Terrington, 64; Sir David Willcocks, 60.

Today's engagements

Exhibitions: Foksal Gallery PSP, ICA Gallery, Nash House, Carlton House Terrace, 12-8. Portraits of the East, British Museum, Great Russell Street, 10-5. Andre Kertesz sixty-five years of photography, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, 10-4.30. World's largest model airport, Bournes, Oxford Street, 11-5.

Events for children: Traditional Punch and Judy show, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, 2.30-3.15; Gerry Cottle's Circus, Lillie Road recreation ground, Fulham Palace Road, 2, 5, 8.

Lecture: Vesuvius 79. The 1900th anniversary of the Pompeii disaster, Geological Museum, Exhibition Road, 2.30.

Walk: Discovering London, Soho; meet Embankment Underground, 2.

Tomorrow

Exhibitions: The Art of Bengal, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, 11-6 (last day). Britain at bay: The home front 1939-1945, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, 2.30-5.30. Textile Arts of France, V and A Museum, Cromwell Road, 2.30-5.30. Camping and outdoor leisure exhibition, National Hall, Olympia, 11-7. Challenge of the chip, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, 2.30-6. Greek Folk Art, Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, 2-6.

Film: *The Mysterians*, ICA Children's cinema club, Nash House, The Mall, 3.

Walks: In the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes: meet Embankment Underground, 11. Shakespeare's and Dickens' Southwark; meet Monument Underground, 2. Ghosts of the City; meet St Paul's Underground, 2.

Beyond conventional ideas of crime and punishment

At the Conservative Party Conference this year the Home Secretary spoke about the disturbing increase of crime and violence in our society. Law and order had been an issue in the Tory Manifesto and Mr Whitelaw promised "short sharp shock" treatment for young offenders, a militaristic discipline tougher than prison or Borstal. Predictably his remarks won wide support from the public, though doubts were raised, by social workers and probation officers among others, who claimed that such treatment might only harden a tendency to violent behaviour. The polarization between the "tough" and the "lenient" remains as fixed as ever. What is absent from the current debate is any new consideration of what punishment is and what it can achieve.

The "tough" view is that punishment is just deserts. It is the direct consequence of wrongdoing. Punishment puts right the moral and social order which is upset by crime. Justice is enabling appropriate punishment to follow on crime. Punishment is expected to be unpleasant for the criminal, but beyond that, his reaction to it is irrelevant. If punishment does not teach him a lesson, tougher punishment will follow on his next misdemeanour. The punishment of crime is a signal to society that virtue is secure. It is also a deterrent to those tempted to err.

The "lenient" argue that the purpose of punishment is reform. Punishment has no intrinsic value, indeed, it is frequently counter-productive. The criminal must be changed, and for that to happen his motives must be understood, his inadequacies helped, and the social cause of his malaise diagnosed and cured. Religous people can be found on both sides of this debate. Crime can be seen as sin. Divine laws are broken and this must be paid for. Punishment is a form of retribution. "Lenient" Christians, on the other hand, stress the forgiveness of Jesus and the evangelical offer of a second chance to all sinners.

Elizabeth Moberly, whose book *Suffering, Innocent and Guilty* was published last year by the SPCK, attempts a theological analysis of these different approaches. This leads her to insights which are *potentially disturbing* and useful. She begins by arguing that it is quite wrong to see punishment as the consequence of wrongdoing. The real consequence of wrongdoing is not imposed externally but suffered internally as moral deterioration. Punishment does not correct wrongdoing by balancing the scales of justice. Punishment itself is evil. Its purpose is to warn by symbolizing to the wrongdoer his inner state of disorder. It is a kind of inverted sacrament. By pain or restriction the criminal is made aware of his true condition, and has a chance to repent.

Dr Moberly goes on to argue that this symbolic theory of punishment is an improvement *on both* the "tough" and "lenient" approaches. Here, punishment has a meaning, which it lacks in the "lenient" approach, and yet it is directed towards change and conversion, a stress rather lacking in the "tough" approach. It is, of course, a very Christian argument, and one that depends on a thoroughly Christian evaluation of suffering and the creative possibilities of repentance. *Dr Moberly would want to go* further even than this and argue that just as wrong can be undone by repentance, so innocent, vicarious suffering can transform evil into good. In Christianity the model for this is the Atonement. But the Atonement is not an isolated event. Man is created in the image of the Trinity which implies that the human context is one of total interdependence. We live for and from each other for good or evil. Wrongdoing upsets the balance of interdependence. It is a violation of another's right to be. That is why there is a necessity for social redemption. The suffering of the innocent, the victims of wrongdoing, can contribute to this redemption.

Dr Moberly is the third member of her distinguished family to write on this subject. She is clearly indebted to the work of her great-grandfather, R. C. Moberly, on the Atonement, and its elucidation by her great-uncle, Sir Walter Moberly. Her book has attracted some attention in theological journals, but its analysis deserves consideration by a wider public, above all for its insistence in asking questions about the purpose of punishment which are so often left unconsidered. It is unlikely that the current debate on crime and punishment will progress far without such analysis being done, preferably in consultation with police, judges, magistrates, criminologists and prison officers.

Meanwhile, there is some evidence that the moral effects of crime on the wrongdoer are being considered, though from rather an unusual quarter. Last year British Rail started a poster campaign against fare dodging which is still running. Unlike previous attempts, in which posters simply stated the penalty for the offence, this campaign concentrates as much on the guilt and anguish of being caught as on the ensuing fine or prison sentence: "When the policeman put his hand on my shoulder I could have died of shame." Notions of shame, guilt, and moral deterioration as the real punishment of crime are not as foreign to our violent society as sometimes appears.

Angela Tilby

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F. M. Blake and Miss J. E. Robinson
The engagement is announced between Francis (Herbi), second son of Mr and Mrs W. S. Blake, of South Petherton, Somerset, and Jane, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. B. Robinson, of Beechingstoke, Wiltshire.

Mr R. Enestrom and Miss S. R. Burcher
The engagement is announced between Ronald, son of the late Mr E. W. Enestrom and of Mrs F. E. Enestrom, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Suellen, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. R. Burcher, of Sydney, Australia.

Count G. M. T. de la Bédoyère and Miss R. A. Carey
The engagement is announced between Guy, elder son of Count and Countess Q. M. A. de la Bédoyère, of Wimbledon, London, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Canon and Mrs R. C. A. Carey, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr N. A. Selwyn and Miss A. V. M. Davies
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs E. C. J. Selwyn, of Brecon, and Anne Veronica Maund, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs L. R. Davies, of Hayling Island.

Mr S. G. Mitchell Innes and Miss B. A. Slayton
The engagement is announced between Sam, only son of Mr A. P. Mitchell Innes, of Burneston, north Yorkshire, and the late Mrs Mitchell Innes, and Belinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Slayton, of Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire.

Marriages

Mr K. C. H. Bennett and Miss C. G. Wilson
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 22, 1979, in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral of Mr Keith Bennett, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Bennett, of Eastbourne, and Miss Corinne Wilson, daughter of Dr and Mrs Gilbert Wilson, of London. Father David G. Wilson, brother of the bride, officiated.

The bride was attended by Benedict Ball, who also served at the Nuptial Mass. Mr John Ashurst was best man.

Mr J. S. Cousins and Miss G. A. Bowers
The marriage took place quietly in Hongkong on December 28 of Mr John Cousins, son of the late Mr L. R. Cousins and of Mrs M. B. K. Cousins, of Manor Court, Manor House, Ringwood, Hampshire, and Miss Geraldine Bowers, daughter of Colonel and Mrs T. I. Bowers, of Yateley Grange, Yateley, Hampshire.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Edwin John Morgan to be a Civil Service Commissioner with effect from January 2, succeeding Mr Sidney David Light as Under-Secretary in charge of recruitment policy.
Mr Glyn Lloyd to be a part-time member of the British Tourist Authority for two years from January 1.

Lieutenancy of Greater London

The following Deputy Lieutenant commissions have been signed and take effect from January 2:
Mr S. Kershen, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Hanscombe; Colonel K. J. Grace; Mr P. F. Corbett and Commodore C. P. C. Noble.
Resignation: Major C. H. J. Fisher, from December 31.

Demolition denial: Stocken Hall, a seventeenth century country house near Oakham, Leicestershire. The Home Office, which owns the building, denied yesterday that it intended to demolish it (our Planning Reporter writes).

Stocken Hall, a grade two listed building, is said to have been in good condition when taken over by the Royal Air Force in 1940. In recent years the grounds have been used as a prison farm, but the house itself was left empty. The carved staircase, chimney pieces and panelling have been destroyed by vandals, and cattle have invaded the ground floor.

Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Save Britain's Heritage, says the Home Office has totally neglected its duty to maintain the house since it was acquired. "This is a monstrous example of the callous neglect of a fine and beautiful country house by a Government department", he added.

The Home Office said the future of the building, the condition of which was a matter of great concern, was under discussion with various bodies, including the local authority.

OBITUARY

SIGNOR GIO PONTI

Architect with many talents

Signor Gio Ponti, the Italian architect and designer who died recently at the age of 87, had a wide range of talents. In his early days he was also a painter and ceramist and throughout his career he designed fabrics, light-fittings and ship-interiors, including that of the Andrea Doria. He was responsible for some of the best pieces of furniture produced during those years after the Second World War when Italy led the world in furniture design. He also designed sets and costumes for La Scala opera, Milan. He was a successful magazine editor and publisher and the founder, in 1928, of the magazine *Domus* which became one of the leading European periodicals concerned with domestic architecture and design and exerted a liberating influence on public taste in many countries.

Gio Ponti was born on Nov 18, 1891 in Milan, the son of Enrique Ponti and Giovanna Rigone. Most of his career was spent in that city, where he also taught at the school of architecture. He was one of Italy's first modern architects. With Giuseppi Terragni he formed, as early as 1926, the Movimento Italiano per l'Architectura Razionale, and his building (1934) for the Faculty of Mathematics at Rome University was only preceded, as a prominent example of the modern style, by Terragnis Casa del Fascio (now the Casa del Popolo) at Como.

Ponti subsequently designed two large office buildings in Milan for the Montecatini Company (1936 and 1951). His most notable architectural work was the thirty-three storey Pirelli Building also in Milan, which *he designed in conjunction with* the engineer Pier Luigi Nervi. Completed in 1 958, it is one of the most shapely and elegant of all high office buildings. Ponti was also closely concerned at this time with the influential series of Milan Triennale exhibitions. He designed buildings—though not all his later projects were carried out—in many countries besides Italy, including the United States, Brazil, Venezuela, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

In 1957 he published *Amate l'Architettura*, a volume of stimulating if somewhat rhapsodic discourses on architecture and taste which was translated into English in 1960 under the title *In Praise of Architecture*. In 1968 Ponti was given an honorary doctorate by the Royal College of Art, London. He was also an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and an honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

In 1921 he married Giulia Vimercati. They had one son and three daughters.

MR CECIL CATLING

Mr Cecil Catling, known affectionately to generations of Fleet Street journalists as "Cat" during at least six decades, died in hospital following a road accident shortly before Christmas. He was for many years on the staff of the *Star*, the London evening paper.

His death ended what is probably the longest unbroken family connexion with journalism in Fleet Street's history. It spanned 125 years, beginning with his grandfather who joined *Lloyd's News* as a compositor in 1854 and rose to become editor.

His grandfather, Thomas Catling, won distinction beyond Fleet Street when his book, *My Life's Pilgrimage*, published in 1911, was hailed as a classic work on English journalism. "Cat's" father, Thomas Thurgood Catling, was assistant editor of *Lloyd's News* in later years and was well known in Fleet Street. He was president of the London Press Club in 1899.

Their successive careers overlapped, but "Cat" beat them both in years of service, and when he died he was still at work at the age of 85. He was mortally injured while returning home from a Saturday duty at the *Sunday Mirror*, for which he had worked on a part-time basis for 30 years.

He will be best remembered as a crime reporter on the *Star*, which ceased independent production in 1960. He was on the staff for 40 years until that paper closed, and distinguished himself as an exceptional all-rounder. In the First World War he served in France with the London Scottish. He was wounded, but returned to the *Western Front* after being commissioned in the London Irish.

He was a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists [illegible] he was active for half a [illegible]. He leaves a widow.

LADY BALLANTRAE

F. J. B-A writes:

Having had the privilege of knowing Laura Ballantrae over many years, I wondered if I may add a few lines to the notice of her tragic and so untimely death.

Laura was a woman with a rare array of qualities. There was humility combined with resolution; there was dignity combined with easy friendship; there were, above all, a glorious sense of humour and an abundance of common sense. New Zealanders will say that in living memory, as a Governor General's wife she had no equal. On the rare occasions when Sir Bernard, as he then was, was unable to fulfil a speaking engagement, Laura with much diffidence would step in and make her own speech with resounding success.

Two Grenfell sisters, Frances and Laura, married two officers of the Black Watch. They had from school always been best friends and they both commanded the regiment. Their wives were known and admired by all ranks and to thousands of people in all walks of life all over the world.

There were discussions over the setting up of a Cheshire Home in New Zealand. There were those who argued that in a highly developed welfare state no such organization was necessary. At once Laura grasped that there was a need, but a more pervading need. The result, under Laura's chairmanship and with her persuasion and drive, was that a chain of homes for physically handicapped people has been established in New Zealand under the Laura Fergusson Trust. She was deeply involved with a similar association in Scotland; but nowhere more than in New Zealand will she be remembered, for her wit, wisdom, compassion and devotion.

GENERAL MIKHAIL KAZAKOV

Soviet Army General Mikhail Kazakov, a former Chief of Staff of the Warsaw Pact forces, has died at the age of 78.

Kazakov began his military career at the age of 19 when he joined the Red Army in the post-revolution civil war of 1918-1922. In the Second World War he became Deputy Commander on the Voronezh, Bryansk, Baltic and Leningrad fronts.

After the war, having held posts in various military districts, he was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Soviet Land Forces in 1956, and from the same year he was Commander, Soviet Southern Forces. He took part in suppressing the Hungarian uprising, and in endeavours to reconstruct the Hungarian economy after the revolt.

Veronica Sekules (left) and Jane Pryor preparing exhibits for the Sainsbury Centre exhibition at the University of East Anglia in March.

Medieval church carvings for university display

Until a few weeks ago, unknown to visiting tourists or regular worshippers, the choir gallery at Norwich Cathedral was the store-place for several hundred pieces of medieval sculpture discarded and left to gather dust for many years.

Mr David Mawson, the cathedral architect, thought that these stones were worthy of more respect and attention and he has persuaded the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, to mount a major exhibition in which they will be displayed to the public for the first time in hundreds of years.

The exhibition will last from March 4 to May 4.

Among the stone fragments are beautifully and intricately carved twelfth century capitals and voussoirs from the original cloisters, chapter house and infirmary, all subsequently rebuilt or dismantled.

Some have preserved traces of original painted decoration, others are discoloured to a delicate pink by the heat of the fire which destroyed many of the monastic buildings in 1271.

A few tiny fragments of Purbeck marble sculpture from a shrine or an elaborate tomb give a hint of the richness of the thirteenth century work at the cathedral, all of which has since disappeared.

The largest pieces in the exhibition are magnificent fourteenth century reliefs from the Ethelbert gate, taken down when the gate was restored in 1864.

The sculpture is being cleaned and restored at the Sainsbury Centre by students from the School of Fine Arts and Music and volunteers from the centre's guides. A film of the preparations for the exhibition, made by the Audio-Visual Centre at the University, will be on show during the exhibition.

It will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue prepared by staff and students at the Sainsbury Centre as a permanent record.

The exhibition is receiving financial assistance from the Eastern Arts Association, with funds provided by Sotheby Parke Bernet to support the arts in the region. Museums and art galleries in the Eastern region were invited to apply for a grant for special exhibitions. The Sainsbury Centre's application for this exhibition of medieval sculpture from Norwich Cathedral was successful.

Science report

Climatology: Impact of ozone

By the Staff of *Nature*

Many people are concerned that man's activities, such as the use of supersonic transport and aerosol sprays, could decrease the layer of ozone in the Earth's upper atmosphere. That layer is precious as a shield against harmful solar ultraviolet radiation.

Now a report in *Nature* reveals that the Earth's lower atmosphere is significant too. According to a team of American scientists at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, variations in the ozone in the lower atmosphere, caused by man, may have a major impact on our future climate.

Hitherto, investigators have always looked at concentrations of ozone in the upper atmosphere, where most of it is to be found. There—some 15 kilometres from the Earth—it reacts with the incoming ultraviolet radiation from the Sun, effectively shielding the Earth from an overdose of radiation. That has been the principal reason for concern about decreasing concentrations of ozone, for it was feared that increasing ultraviolet radiation would reach the Earth, leading to an increased incidence of skin cancer.

There has not been the same concern about disturbances in the lower atmosphere because only about 10 per cent of all ozone resides there. However, that ozone plays a significant role by influencing the amount of heat retained in the atmosphere. Ozone absorbs more infra-red energy at the higher atmospheric pressure near the Earth than it does farther away where the pressure is lower. For that reason the ozone in the lower atmosphere absorbs as much of the warming infra-red radiation as does the much greater concentration in the upper atmosphere.

The infra-red radiation in the lower atmosphere either comes direct from the Sun or it has already reached the Earth and been reflected back from the surface. Some of that infra-red radiation is absorbed by the ozone in the lower atmosphere and thereby increases the temperature. Thus the more ozone that is present, the greater its warming effect is likely to be. Fluctuations in the concentration of ozone in the lower atmosphere are therefore *expected to have a significant effect* on the climate of the Earth.

Several recent studies have suggested that air pollution in the northern hemisphere may be responsible for an increase of ozone that has been reported in the lower atmosphere. The ozone there has been raised to concentrations significantly greater than those at the same level in the less industrialized southern hemisphere.

The team at Boulder has now looked at the possible impact of such an increase on Earth's temperature. They used a computer model that simulates the behaviour of the atmosphere and can calculate the effect of changes such as an increase in ozone. When the recent measurements for the northern and southern hemispheres were fed into the computer, the model predicted that the increase in ozone would have made the northern hemisphere 0.2°C warmer than the southern hemisphere.

Direct measurements have shown that the northern hemisphere is actually 1° warmer. The difference is largely due to variations in geographical features, such as oceans and areas covered with snow or ice, but the influence of the ozone is nevertheless significant. A simple doubling of the amount of ozone in future in the lower atmosphere would boost the temperature by another degree.

At current rates such a doubling may occur by the end of the next century. The concentration of carbon dioxide is also likely to double on a similar time scale, and with a larger warming effect of two to three degrees. But those effects will be much more global, whereas any warming due to increased ozone in the lower atmosphere would be much more concentrated in the northern hemisphere.

The combination of the two effects might alter the climate more drastically than the changes in carbon dioxide alone, especially in the northern hemisphere.

Source *Nature* (Vol 282, p 818 December 20-27, 1979).

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25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, Dec 30, 1954

Nairobi, Dec 29.—Caught by an armed Mau Mau gang 40 to 50 strong which burned down her lonely farmhouse north of Mount Kinangop, Mrs Anne Carnelley, aged 29, was told that her life and those of her two young children would be spared if she got on the first aircraft to Britain. Eventually she was allowed to go off barefooted carrying the children, David aged two and a half, and Jane aged one and a half. Mrs Carnelley was alone at the farm. Her husband, Mr Lovat Carnelley, was at Naivasha, 18 miles away, doing the weekly shopping. At about five o'clock yesterday afternoon the gang attacked and Mrs Carnelley decided that her only chance was to take the children and try to hide in the bush. As she ran she fired one shot from her pistol which then jammed. More terrorists came up and the mother and children were forced to stand with rifles and pistols pointed at them at short range. The most aggressive terrorist, Mrs Carnelley said afterwards, seemed to be drunk. He brandished her own carving knife in her face, but was removed by another man who took command.

Services tomorrow: First Sunday after Christmas

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC 8, M 10.30 [illegible] Benedictus and TD: [illegible] service, HC 11.30 Victoria [illegible] O magnum Mysterium [illegible] WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC 8; M 10.30 Right Rev E. G. Knapp-Fisher [illegible] SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: [illegible] CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: HC 8.30; M 11.15 [illegible] THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): [illegible] GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: HC 9; M 11 [illegible] TOWER OF LONDON: HC 11 [illegible] TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): [illegible] ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): [illegible] The chaplain. HC 12.15.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace (public welcomed): [illegible] ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Sung Eucharist 11, Rev G de Mello [illegible] ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: [illegible] GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HC 8.15; Sung Eucharist 11 [illegible] HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road: [illegible] ST ALBAN'S, Holborn: [illegible] ST BRIDES, Fleet Street: HC 8.30; [illegible] ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: [illegible] ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS: [illegible] ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: HC 8.15; [illegible] ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC [illegible] ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: [illegible] ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington: [illegible] ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: [illegible]

[illegible] ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: [illegible] ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: [illegible] ST PETER'S, Eaton Square: [illegible] ST SIMON ZELOTES, Chelsea: [illegible] ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: [illegible] ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland), Pont Street: 11, Rev Dr J. Fraser McLuskey. 6.30, Rev Dr J. Fraser McLuskey. CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland), Russell Street, Covent Garden: 11.15 and 6.30 [illegible] THE ORATORY, SW7: [illegible] ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: [illegible] ST PATRICK'S, Soho Square: [illegible] CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: [illegible] REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN [illegible] WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate: 11 and 6.30 [illegible] WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: [illegible]

Church news

Appointments

The Rev D. J. Leyland, rector of Brindle, diocese of Blackburn, to be vicar of St Andrew's, [illegible] Preston, same diocese.

The Rev B. A. McQuillan, curate of Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield, diocese of Birmingham, to be vicar of St Mary, Bearwood, Smethwick, same diocese.

The Rev A. F. Richards, vicar of St Stephen's, Cinderford, diocese of Gloucester, to be vicar of St Paul's, Clacton-on-Sea, diocese of Chelmsford.

The Rev C. J. L. Napier, team vicar in the South Molton team ministry, diocese of Exeter, to be rector of Drewsteignton, Hittisleigh and Spreyton, same diocese.

The Rev A. J. G. Murray-Leslie, team vicar of [illegible], diocese of Sheffield, to be priest-in-charge of Edale and Warden of Champion House youth centre, diocese of Derby.

The Rev H. A. P. Wills, assistant chaplain to the University of Sheffield and assistant priest attached to the parish of St Mark's, Broomhall, diocese of Sheffield, to be full time chaplain to the University.

Church of Wales

The Rev H. J. Davies, assistant curate of Griffithstown, to be a vicar in the rectorial benefice of Cwmbran [illegible] in charge of St Michael and All Angels, [illegible], diocese of Monmouth.

The Rev H. Trenchard, assistant curate of Caerleon, to be vicar of Llanarth with Llansantffraed, rector of [illegible] and assistant chaplain of Monmouth School, diocese of Monmouth.

Diocese of London

The Rev Dr A. Marks, chaplain to University of London medical students to be warden of Liddon House and [illegible] of Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street.

Canon G. T. Hudson, principal of the Southwark ordination course, to be rector of St Mary-le-Bow.

Diocese of Gloucester

The Rev R. P. Moon, archdeacon of Southern Province of Zambia and priest-in-charge of Livingstone parish, to be priest-in-charge of King's Stanley.

The Rev P. H. Allin, rector of Oxted, Retford, diocese of Southwell, to be Gloucester diocesan adviser in social responsibility.

Resignation

The Rev J. [illegible]-Hughes, rector of [illegible] and Sutton Veny, diocese of Salisbury from January 14.

Diocese of Norwich

The Rev J. D. M. Smith to be rector of [illegible] with Colby and priest-in-charge of [illegible] with Thorpe [illegible], and rural dean of [illegible].

Latest wills

Miss Miriam Margaret Whitaker, of Mitcham, Surrey, who left £50,764 net, bequeathed all her property to be shared equally between the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid, tax not disclosed):

Hubbard, Mr Brian Fortescue, of Beaulieu, Hampshire, estate agent .. .. .. £111,463.
Miskin, Mr Geoffrey, of Buxted, Sussex, merchant .. £209,265.
Walton, Mr John Thomas, of Aylesbury .. .. £133,993.
Philipotts, Mr William Peter Bartlett, of Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire .. .. £176,639.
Edwards, Mr Victor Douglas, of Lewknor, Oxfordshire, garage proprietor .. .. [illegible]
Kenny, Mr James Edward, of Esher .. .. .. £145,995.

University news

Oxford

The following college awards are announced:

CORPUS CHRISTI

Open Awards

Classics: Scholarships: I. R. Lane, Bradford GS; M. J. Edwards, Bolton S; Flora M. F. Fraser, Lady Eleanor Holles S, Hampton; Harriet F. Monkhouse, Withington Girls' S, Manchester. Exhibitions: R. J. Song, Winchester; R. D. Clark, Sevenoaks S. History: Scholarship, A. D. M. Barrell, St Peter's S, York. Exhibition, N. A. [illegible]

Baring Essex Scholarship, D. M. Knight, King Edward VI GS, Essex. PPE: Baring Harrow Scholarship, E. A. Farquharson, Harrow; Open Scholarship, Karina Vidler, Tunbridge Wells Girls' GS; Open exhibitions, J. K. Saunders, King Edward VI C, Warwickshire; N. D. Stern, Haberdashers' Aske's S.

Natural Sciences: Exhibition, N. O. Rivett, Bemrose S (chemistry); Scholarship, K. J. Andrews, Dartford GS (engineering, economics and management); G. A. Blair, St Benedict's S; M. T. Clark, King Edward VI GS, Stratford-upon-Avon (physics); Exhibition, S. C. Bell, Eastwood HS, Renfrewshire (physics); Exhibition, C. J. Hornby, King Edward VII S, Lancs (physiological sciences [illegible]

ST HUGH'S

Scholarships, Cecilia A. Russell, Manchester Girls' HS (Jubilee—physics); Jane A. O'Brien, Dr Challoner's HS, Little Chalfont (Nuffield—medicine); Charlotte A. Hammersley, Lichfield Friary Grange S (Clara Evelyn Mordan—jurisprudence); Elizabeth A. Mighall, Stratford-upon-Avon Girls' GS (Abbott—geography); Catherine E. Morrish, Redland HS, Bristol (Lavinia Smith-Rippon—physics); Katharine J. Slatter, Plymouth C (Irene Shrigley—mathematics). Exhibitions, Jane E. Cheetham, Dartmouth Girls' GS (Old Students'—medicine); Susan E. Hartley, Roundhay S, Leeds (Lavinia Smith-Rippon—chemistry); Beverley A. Howe, Manchester Girls' HS (Lavinia Smith-Rippon—chemistry); Jill E. Kershaw, Radclyffe S, Chadderton, Lancs (Ethel [illegible]

[illegible]

ıcket

;he board put shine f approval on ,illee's aluminium bat

n John Woodcock
ket Correspondent
›ourne, Dec 28

rsuing the line of least ance to which they are ning ever more attached, the alian Cricket Board an- ced here today that Dennis is not to be suspended for ecent conduct but that he een "severely reprimanded" olding up the Test match in for ten minutes, a fortnight while arguing the toss about luminium bat.

aking on behalf of the alian Cricket Board, R. A. , their chairman, gave the ssion that Lillee's behaviour ardly worth bothering with. id that from reports he had ed there was "nothing to te that there has been disputing of an umpire's on". The umpires said this elves. They also said that had not noticed "Mister" hurl his aluminium bat 30 yards in disgust when ally he agreed to change

iew of the number of press graphs there were of Lillee's ne bat they must be two of w people in Australia not e seen it.

Parish said that "no fine spension" was considered hat the flouting of Greg el's instructions to Lillee in st Test match against West in Brisbane, when he intentional no-balls, and this incident in Perth, was ken into accout. Lillee's g of Brearley on the field dney on Boxing Day was ered of no relevance.

g in Melbourne at the time Perth incident, Mr Parish t himself see it, and he has nsidered it necessary to see e, though that would have ossible on the video tape. n feeling is that the strength criticism of Lillee's be- , both then and subse- quently, has been counter-productive. That it has come from all sides and produced a unanimity of view, unprecedented in my experience, between Australian and English critics, seems to have made Mr Parish and his executive committee only more determined to demonstrate their independence. A case of perversity, if you like.

Having stressed that Lillee's aluminium bat was perfectly legal, and that he had not disputed an umpire's decision, Mr Parish was asked why, in that case, Lillee had been "severely reprimanded". This was a googly he failed to spot. No one has worked harder than Mr Parish in the administration of cricket in Australia; no one, for a long time, fought Mr Packer more resolutely; and yet no one can have appeared to be more indifferent to the sportsmanship of cricket. It may be because he only "played at it" himself.

Mr Parish emphasized that the real purpose of today's meeting was to discuss Australia's forthcoming tour of Pakistan. Some of the senior Australian players are known not to want to go to Pakistan, and it is convenient for them to cite the political situation there as the reason why. The younger and less affluent ones feel differently. They therefore, will be pleased to know that it is the present intention of the board for the tour to go ahead.

On the recommendation of the manager of the recent Australian side that toured India, the manager to Pakistan when he is appointed (applications for the job have to be in by December 31) will be sent in advance to Pakistan to vet the accommodation and so on. With a five-day Test match in Multan he may find when he gets there that life will be fairly rugged. A tour of Pakistan is a valuable part of a cricketer's education, but it as well to know in advance that it can be a tough assignment off the field as well as on it. It is then that the blind eye is best turned.

West Indies await fitness of Test pitch

Melbourne, Dec 28. — West Indies are worried about the state of the pitch for the second Test match against Australia, which begins here tomorrow. Willie Rodriguez, the manager, said he was unsure about how the bare surface would stand up to five day's play. He announced a party of 13 and said the team would not be finalized until the pitch was inspected just before the match started.

Greg Chappell, the Australian captain, said the pitch was as bad as he had seen it, and it is likely that the sides will put more emphasis on spin bowling than usual. West Indies included the off-spinner, Derek Parry, and left out the all-rounder, Collis King, while a surprise inclusion was the batsman, Larry Gomes, who has played only in minor tour games.

Gomes is unlikely to make the final 12, and if Parry plays, as expected, one of the four fast bowlers will probably be twelfth man.

That role could go to Colin Croft. He has performed with dedication and success to date but is still regarded as number four behind Andy Roberts, Michael Holding and Joel Garner. The top batsmen, Vivian Richards, showed up well when the trainer, David Waight, put the West Indies party through their paces at the ground today.

Richards, who has been suffering from a hip injury, moved freely. The other casualty, Clive Lloyd, the captain, will make his first appearance in the series after missing the opening Test because of a knee injury.

Australia, too, have strengthened their spin attack. The leg-break bowler, Jim Higgs, and the slow left-arm spinner, Ray Bright, are in a party of 12. Peter Toohey was ruled fit to play. He had suffered slight bruising to his right foot in a practice mishap yesterday.

Toohey, who was hit on the right instep by the one-time bowler, Bruce Laird, now the side's opening batsman, had his foot packed in ice. Earlier reports suggested that the New South Welshman would have to undergo a fitness test this morning, fuelling speculation that the scene was set for the return of the former captain, Ian Chappell, to the side if he was ruled unfit.

The speculation was cut short at the MCG this morning without even the formality of the fitness test. "Peter woke up as good as gold this morning", the Australian captain, Greg Chappell, said. "There is no need for a replacement".

WEST INDIES (from): C. Lloyd, D. Murray, G. Greenidge, D. Haynes, V. Richards, A. Kallicharran, L. Rowe, L. Gomes, D. Parry, A. Roberts, J. Garner, M. Holding, C. Croft.

AUSTRALIA: G. Chappell, K. Hughes, B. Laird, J. [illegible], A. Border, P. Toohey, R. Marsh, D. Lillee, R. Hogg, G. Dymock, J. Higgs, R. Bright.—Reuter.

›ubt over proposed tour

ur, Dec 28.—India's today denied that the pro- tour of the West Indies wing would definitely go The Board of Control for in India are still waiting Indian Government to the tour.

pplication is unlikely to be d because the financial ffered by the West Indies vourable. Moreover several players are reluctant to y want to rest after this our of England, followed series at home against a and Pakistan.

hope to continue their ul spell in Test cricket e fourth Test against Pak- nmes here tomorrow after rest day.

S: India 160 (Sikander Bakht 56, Ehteshamuddin five for 79 for no wicket; Pakistan 249 (Wasim Raja 94, Kapil Dev six for 63).—Reuter.

Success on tour: The touring Oxford and Cambridge Universities cricket team beat Australian Universities by six wickets on the third and final day of their match at Sydney University Oval yesterday, Reuter reports.

SCORES: Australian Universities, 269 and 131 for 3 dec; Oxford and Cambridge Universities, 177 and 224 for 4.

New appointment: Nick Pocock, aged 28, has been appointed Hampshire captain next season in succession to the wicket-keeper Stephenson, who becomes the senior professional. Pocock, a middle order batsman, joined the staff in 1975. He has experience as captain of his school, Shrewsbury, the Public Schools XI, and, on many occasions, the Hampshire second eleven.

Raising a leaky cup of kindness in a toast to the old and the new at the extraordinary meeting of the firm of Rangers and Celtic

The auld acquaintance that cannot be forgot

By Douglas Rae

You could have called it the match of the day, of the year, of the age as recently as a decade ago, quoting no other testimonial than its place in the folklore league; and even among those who have explored such fabled lands you might have got away with it. Indisputably the claim would have done nothing to integrate the two factions involved, such is the frozen wasteland, with its local fauna known as polar berzz, that divides Rangers and their blue-nosed votaries from Celtic and their wee green men.

At Ibrox Park today the noses will be bluer, the men a paler shade of green, the match itself a stub beside the ticket of old. Thirty-six thousand people will keep the bitter enemies company. In Old Firm terms that really is company rather than a crowd.

More than the arctic wind will paint these Protestant noses a deeper hue of blue and these Catholic men a paler cry of green. This is the turn of the year, of the decade, and it looks more like a turn for the worse.

The players will be carrying Scotland, Ben Nevis and all, on their backs. The spectators will have the stark look of the disenchanted, face and faith ravaged by the realization that Jock Stein will never again walk on water, not in those leaky old boots, anyway. And warming up somewhere in the wings will be the spectre of a ticketless Wembley.

Scotland has little to drink to, but much to drown, this Hogmanay. Today's big match calls for a tot of the best in a toast not so much to the 1980s as to auld lang syne. For the Big Yin has grown too wee for his boots. If that sounds Irish, well it might. There is a bigger whack of Paddy in this annual bear-garden than a strait-laced Protestant cares to allow. (It is no mere coincidence that the land of Donnybrook is less than 30 miles away from Scotland at the nearest point.)

To suggest that the festive replay of the Battle of the Boyne is in any danger of kicking it would be to underestimate the independence and resilience of the Glaswegian. It is just that the rare old beast is not himself any more. He has undergone a facial. The unseemlier scars have been erased and no glass debris pocks the flesh. The face is almost acceptable.

It is as if the Old Firm had joined the Ivy League. In such a league you will look in vain for that bizarre subspecies, the Wembley Scot. Today those fellas will look like ordinary fellas in pubs. "Uryefuragemme? Gebackinrakewmac". Only that accent, that doon-the-watter Swahili achieved by biting the necks off the empties and spitting out the fragments in your face, proclaims the genus as indigenous Glaswegian.

Imbibers of the legend will tell you that this New Year game is an orgy of orchestrated violence. Its passions so fired that they assume the shape of a broken bottle pointed at the jugular, a razor blade ever ready in the brim of a "bunnet", a switchblade in the alley of your back. Hard men to whom the occasion is a narcotic will kick your head around a back court until they lose it. And it is all vaguely, not to say Haigly, to do with the Gorbals..

All the hate of a year, so the legend goes on, is bottled up for this one day and when it is uncorked the explosion is seismic in its virulence. It is so sensitive an area that, even if you cannot tell a Charlie Tully corner kick from a single end, it could be love or hate at first sight, depending upon the colour of your eyes. Blue, and you are the squire of Springburn; green, and you are fit only to be an underwater extra in *Jaws*.

It is Gog and Magog. The home crowd are a million light blue years away from the green men of that other planet, Parkhead. Two great bellows fan the fires of internecine civic sectarianism. What more could a man who is tired of life want, haemoglobin?

When people of fine southern sensibilities pontificate on this annual exchange of seasonal compliments between two great clubs their imagination is as unfettered—if not so informed—as Billy Connolly's. It is true that few sporting occasions set the blood off on such mazy dribbles through the body as does an Old Firm match. You feel you are not going to a game so much as visiting an institution; or, if you are of a still deeper cast of mind, even tunnelling your way into the psyche of a city, if not a nation.

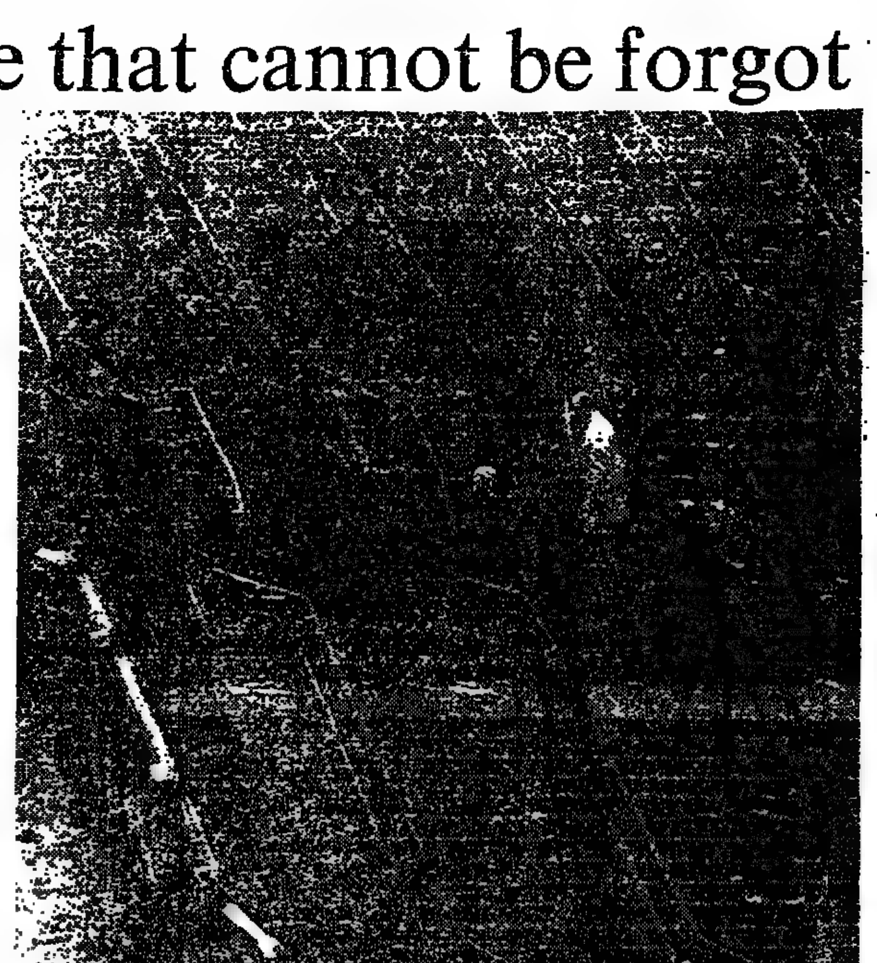
Four decades ago Ibrox would have been playing New Year host to 120,000, 120 of whom would have been arrested. It is a different league now. The two giants square up to each other so often in the 10-team premier division that the hate can be dispensed in several small bottles instead of in the one large one at New Year.

The tradition is strong. It exerts the pull of a homing pigeon, even when the wings of death are beating. That laureate of the game Hugh McIlvanney, who will be at today's stramash, wrote a decade ago in *Sports Illustrated*: "At least one Rangers supporter has had his ashes scattered over the centre circle at The Stadium [as Ibrox Park is specifically known] and there are tales of Celtic men being given the last rites one day and getting up to go to a match the next."

Seen in that light, the contest is not readily isolated from its context in society and that society is as schizoid as the contest. Glasgow may be an obscene scrawl on a wall: it is also a school of painting. It may be a bandy-legged ship's welder from a three-in-a bunk tenement who is half-seas-over on a Saturday night in Sauchiehall Street: it is also the streamlined grace of the ocean Queens. It may be Billy Connolly's revised version of the crucifixion: it is also Salvador Dali's "Christ of St John of the Cross" at Kelvingrove.

"Ra Gemme", as it is known in the local argot, is the ambivalence of Glasgow carried to a single, collective consummated extreme. It is a fixture haunted by its record of disaster, riot and death. The tension is so affecting that when a Celtic player nudged the referee before the teams shot out, and said he was holding the ball upside down, the referee thanked him and turned the ball the right way up.

The patter, the polis, the pools of vomit. It is the fear that gets you, the fear for the worst. But Billy Connolly has reminded us not to judge a book by its cover. No less a player than Nietzsche scores when he says that a tradition, as it grows more venerable from generation to generation, ultimately becomes holy and inspires awe. Maybe that is why, to this scribe at least, today's pint-sized and mince-pie shenanigans fall short of the glamour of the past.



Last exit from Ibrox. Death darkens the threshold of New Year, 1971. Sixty-six lives were lost, another 66 people were maimed and a nation of 56m mourned.

›och may ve ; problem

Special Correspondent
, Dec 28

estic hundred by Gooch batting by Taylor and in the lower half of er, gave England an for their second first- n of the tour today. been six for two after our and 148 for five an efore tea against a Queensland team, recovered to reach 292 at close of play on a the groundsman began only on Boxing Day. mp underneath after a Christmas storm and rass on top, there seems be something in it to e bowlers, especially the es, over the weekend.

s 115, made without a n four hours, answers England's problems for d Test, which starts in next Friday. Coming in irst over of the match, ered the early pace and ackemann and the swing ft-handed Schuller, with uthority to suggest him- oycott's opening partner xpense of Randall, who fth time running, failed past one. Without injured, and Dymock ppell in Melbourne for against West Indies, d were ill-equipped for tions, and Gooch, having luck to edge a lifting Rackemann over third the skill to kill a nasty high from Schuller, was und.

r, while Gooch scored his t-class hundred and his tour, Randall, Larkins, nd Gower failed to take ce. Only Larkins was un- able to steer a lifter from out of short-leg's reach. vas caught off the inside- ped off Rackemann's ll, Botham mishit Hohns ed to pull, and Gower n-footed at a short ball e off-stump. Of the early only Willey, who added Gooch in an hour and rters, showed the com- posure and concentration England will need to level the series with Australia. He fell on one of the day's best balls; an outswinger from Rackemann, a broad-shouldered 15-stoner, which lifted as it left him.

From 194 for six, the score when Gooch going for a lofted four, was nicely taken by a back-pedalling mid-off, England owed it to Taylor, Emburey and Stevenson that the innings was still going two hours later. Taylor attempted nothing outside his narrow range but Emburey, playing his first first-class innings since September, straight-drove and on-drove with astonishing assurance for a man whose top score until today was 48 in more than 90 innings. He hit 8 fours in his 100-minute fifty, completing it by clouting Schuller for four over cover-point off the second new ball, and was unlucky to be out later in the over, bowled off the inside edge as he lined up another forcing stroke.

Aggressive innings: Emburey turning a ball for four on the way to his 50.

ENGLAND XI: First Innings

D. W. Randell, c Langley, b Rackemann	0
W. Larkins, c Langley, b Schuller	5
G. A. Gooch, c Sub, b Rackemann	115
P. Willey, c Phillips, b Rackemann	30
*I. T. Botham, c Parker, b Hohns	31
D. I. Gower, c Phillips, b Schuller	5
†R. W. Taylor, c Hohns, b Cosier	32
J. E. Emburey, b Schuller	50
G. B. Stevenson, not out	18
G. R. Dilley, not out	6
Extras (b 4, l-b 3, n-b 7, w 1)	15
Total (8 wkts)	292

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—0, 2—6, 3—83, 4—120, 5—148, 6—194, 7—253, 8—283.

BOWLING: Rackemann, 22—5—72—3; Schuller, 23—3—66—3; Balcam, 5—0—19—0; Cosier, 8—3—14—1; Hohns, 32—8—87—1; Broad, 5—1—22—0.

st European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
	90	135	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1
nowfall all day							
ur	90	240	Good	Powder	—	Snow	-1
ow on good base							
ntana	80	140	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	0
ow on good base							
	60	130	Good	Crust	Good	Snow	-2
nt skiing conditions							
	80	310	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	-1
w on icy base							
ld	30	90	Good	Varied	Fair	Snow	1
w on firm base							
	115	155	Fair	Fair	Good	Fine	—
ll of new snow							
	145	275	Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-4
w on hard base							
	80	150	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1
w on good base							
	60	145	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	-1
nt. snowing							
lulx	40	100	Good	Crust	Poor	Snow	5
nditions on lower slopes							
	20	45	Fair	Varied	Good	Snow	0
w on firm base							
valier	60	160	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	-3
w on good base							
	140	240	Good	Varied	Good	—	—
nt piste skiing							
re	130	160	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	-1
y patches							
	45	130	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	2
snow on hard base							
	30	90	Good	Varied	Fair	Snow	-2
w on hard piste							

ove reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of tain. L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

Football

Albion could keep the race alive

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Manchester United left Anfield on Boxing Day saying that things could, though not necessarily would, be different when they met Liverpool at Old Trafford in April. It sounded a little like the schoolboy running from some playground brawl murmuring "you wait" with that half-hearted defiance meaning that with luck there will not be a next time. By April Liverpool could conceivably be far enough ahead to afford United a friendly point for effort.

The result of that surprisingly one-sided Christmas match was the most significant of this half season and, in the opinion of the Liverpool manager, Bob Paisley, represented a fine example of his club's football over the past decade and an indication that it would take a special team to stop them dominating the next. For the moment, there is not a taker for his challenge. Manchester United, a much better balanced team under Dave Sexton, still need the finishing touches and the others in the van are comparatively limited in potential.

Of course it is too early to talk of Liverpool romping away with their fifth championship title of the decade, but the margin of their victory over United, tipped as the team of the eighties, was greater than 2-0. Their two point lead plus a game, in hand, provides a comforting advantage at the turn of the year and of the season. For the sake of healthy competition it would be as well if West Bromwich Albion gave everyone a glimpse of the quarry by beating Liverpool at the Hawthorns this afternoon.

Present form may suggest that there is not much evidence for predicting a slip by Liverpool but they have not always been impressive at Albion's ground. Last season they dropped their first point there in a 1-1 draw, the home scorer being Cunningham, now departed to Spain. Apart from a few tremors at the start of this season, Liverpool's ability has remained unquestioned while Albion have been reshaped and suffered injuries that have cost them a high place in the league and some of their flair.

Liverpool's consistency owes much to the unchanging shape of their team. A rumour that Dalglish was out of the side to play Manchester United proved false but a journalist colleague from that area remarked that it was the only way to persuade people to buy the local newspaper. Today Liverpool are unchanged for the twelfth successive match. Their substitute, Fairclough, deserves a loyalty bonus.

Ron Atkinson, Albion's manager, said: "In all honesty I can't remember off hand the last time Liverpool dropped a point. I saw them at Derby last week and thought they looked a super team. We will have to play to our maximum to match them tomorrow". For the record, Arsenal took a point from Liverpool on November 24. Liverpool's last league defeat was at Nottingham Forest on September 29, which was 14 matches ago. The only anomaly in this record of success was their inability to match Dynamo Tbilisi in the European Cup. That kept adulation in proportion.

A 3—0 win over Bristol City on Boxing Day encouraged Albion but this afternoon they may be without Owen, who has muscle injuries in the leg. If he is passed fit, the team will remain the same. Otherwise Mills or Alistair Brown will be included.

Manchester United go directly from a match against the only club above them to one with Arsenal, one place beneath. Both sides realize that defeat could leave them a mountain to climb in the New Year but there is no lack of endeavour in the United team, although I dare suggest Arsenal can still raise their game a notch or two. Realistically, Mr Saxton makes no scapegoats for the defeat at Liverpool while Arsenal also send out an unchanged team, Nelson still being omitted.

Considering that they have conceded twice as many goals as Liverpool, Southampton have done well to move into fourth place, level with Norwich City. Both clubs have limited resources by comparison with the three above them. Today Southampton should not be stopped by Bolton Wanderers, who have won only one first division match this season and must give fitness tests this morning to Gowling, Morgan and Cantello. Southampton have asked their third choice goalkeeper, Harrison, to stand by in case the two senior goalkeepers are unavailable because of minor injuries.

Further encouragement for Brighton came with a convincing 3—0 win over Crystal Palace on Boxing Day. They have taken 10 points from their last seven games but Suddaby, who has played an important part in the revival, misses today's game against Manchester City because of a suspension. Stevens again takes the position in the defence.

Complaining Tottenham Hotspur supporters are blamed for a transfer request by Colin Lee, who joined the club two years ago and scored four goals in his first game. He said yesterday: "A section of supporters have ruined my confidence. I have got to get away".

Rugby Union

Bristol stand in the way of the Llanelli bandwagon

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Peter Morgan, heir presumptive to J. P. R. Williams as fullback for Wales, will play in that position for Llanelli against Bristol at the Memorial Ground this afternoon. This is at the request of the Welsh selectors, whose national party assemble for training next weekend, a fortnight before the international championship begins in Cardiff with the visit of France.

With six successive wins behind it, Llanelli's bandwagon is rolling impressively once more, and the news from Stradey Park is that Phil Bennett, who has been out of action since October, hopes to start playing again next month. It may not be long either before another of their talented backs, David Nicholas, is back in business as well.

For the moment Bristol may feel they have enough on their plate facing a three-quarter line composed of J. J. Williams, Roy Bergiers, Ray Gravell and Jeffrey Griffiths, the last named having been the Welsh try-scorer against Romania in October.

The Bristol and England full-back, Alastair Hignell, has started light training again and expects to resume playing in a fortnight. If all goes well, he might just be in contention for a place in the England side when they play their [illegible] championship match, in Paris on February 2. Another Bristol absentee, David Sorrell, should be back in action rather sooner. But, meanwhile, Bristol have been doing pretty well without two such key players.

There is an important northern merit table match, Sale v Fylde, in which both sides start with 100 per cent records. Fylde have won all nine of their merit games, and Sale all five of theirs. Bill Beaumont sees this as being the hardest match Fylde have had so far this season, and reflects that the abnormally wet conditions may be more of a help to his own side. He has a healthy respect for Sale's back division in which Wright, the Lancashire centre, has been making so significant a mark.

The Leicester stand-off half, Les Cusworth, who was capped by England in the New Zealand international, is in the wars following a collision with his Welsh counterpart, Gareth Davies, in his club's game against the Barbarians on Thursday. Davies went off with a painful shin. Later that evening, Cusworth's toe was so swollen that he feared there was a fracture, but an X-ray revealed nothing serious.

He misses today's home game against Headingley but expects to play for the Rest in England's trial next week. That staunch England prop, Robin Cowling, is another Leicester casualty. He needed four stitches to an eye injury on Thursday. Jez Krych takes over from him, as does a newcomer, Mick Poulson, from Cusworth. Tim Barnwell replaces Terry Burwell on the wing.

The former England lock, Barry Ninnes, had to miss Coventry's win over Moseley on Boxing Day but is back in their side for the visit to Cardiff. Robin Cardwell will make his first senior appearance of the season on a flank.

The Moseley captain, Martin Cooper, remains on the injured list and Mike Perry continues at stand-off half for the visit of Waterloo to the Reddings. Rosslyn Park go to Bedford reinforced by the return of Andy Ripley and the presence of Paul Ackford, the Cambridge and England B lock.

The All Black, Andy Haden, is at lock again for Harlequins in their merit table game against London Scottish and, for theirs against Richmond at the Athletic ground, Saracens are fortified by the return of the seven men who missed the defeat by Northampton on Boxing Day.

Boxing

Hope may defend

Milan, Dec 28.—The world light-middleweight champion, Maurice Hope, of Britain, will stake his championship against Rocky Mattioli, of Italy, next April, if the holder retains his title in a February defence and Mattioli wins his bout against one of the top 10 in the WBC ratings next month, the matchmaker, Rudolfo Sabbatini, said today.

Hockey

Herts and Middlesex try to recapture old glory

By Sydney Friskin

It is the unfortunate lot of six hockey teams to fight for survival tomorrow instead of being free to seek more seasonal forms of diversion. The occasion is the preliminary round of the county championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, into which Cheshire made their entrance only four days ago.

At St Albans, Hertfordshire and Middlesex will be striving to recover lost glory, each side having won the championship three times. They met at the same place in the 1959-60 final when Hertfordshire won 2—1.

Both sides, unfortunately, have problems. By the time the match begins at 1.15 pm—at Mill Hill School's all weather pitch if Clarence Park is unplayable—three Middlesex players, Owen (goalkeeper), Cattrall (sweeper) and Brookeman (forward) will be on their way to Karachi to assist the British team in the Champions Trophy event which starts on January 3.

Gloucestershire, who have scored a number of goals in the west, mainly through Webb, of Cheltenham, go to Winnington Club to play Cheshire, whose fortunes will depend again o nthe form of the front runners Greene, Smith and Brogdon. The pundits in the west do not expect Gloucestershire to win.

Leicestershire, with Hamilton as their sharpshooter, travel to Brize Norton, at Caterton in Oxfordshire, to take on the Royal Air Force, whose party of 14 includes Doyle, Duerdon, Hedley and Sutton. But these resources may not be enough to hold off Leicestershire who have a strong forward line led by Abdulla with Barton and Saund in close support.

Snooker

Davis issues challenge

Fred Davis, celebrating 50 years as a professional in 1980, is to challenge Rex Williams for the World professional billiards championship at the Northern Snooker Centre, Leeds, next May.

Williams, aged 45, who has held the title since 1968, will be defending for the fifth time The last challenge was made by Eddie Charlton in Australia in 1976.

Davis, now 65 and holder of the professional World Snooker title on eight occasions, still has ambitions of equalling the record of his late brother Joe, who held both the billiards and snooker championships during his career.

Skiing

Abandoned race re-run

Berne, Dec 28.—A men's World Ski Cup downhill race, abandoned at Schladming, Austria, last Saturday because of bad conditions, will be re-run at the Swiss resort of Wengen in the Bernese *Oberland* on January 18, an International Ski Federation official said today.

The event will precede two other World Cup races at the same venue: a downhill over the Lauberhorn track on January 19, and a slalom the following day. Rain, mud and poor visibility forced organisers to cancel the Schladming downhill after 28 skiers had completed the run.—Reuter.

SOERENBERG: Women's Slalom: Leading results: 1, H. Wenzel (Liechtenstein) 49.84sec + 50.17sec = 1min 40.01sec; 2, E. Hess (Switzerland), 49.71 + 50.77 = 1:40.48; 3, P. Wenzel (Liechtenstein), 50.08 + 51.13 = 1:41.21; 4, I. Eberle (Austria), 50.73 + 50.72 = 1:41.45; 5, B. Glur (Switzerland), 50.85 + 51.06 = 1:41.91; 6, A. Bader (West Germany), 51.10 + 51.69 = 1:42.79; 7, U. Konzett (Liechtenstein), 1:42.95; 8, H. Naepflin (Switzerland), 1:43.07; 9, F. Pralong (Switzerland), 1:44.17; 10, M. Walliser (Switzerland), 1:44.45; 11, M. Hummel (Switzerland), 1:45.38; 13, L.-M. Morerod (Switzerland), 1:46.70.

Gap in the West closed

By Joyce Whitehead

The results of matches played yesterday on hard court pitches in Cheltenham have closed the gap in the Western Counties tournament table. Gloucestershire were held to a 2—2 draw by Avon, which must have given the last-named county a great boost. Cornwall beat the present championship holders, Wiltshire, 2—0. Rosemary Yarnold and Carol Boothroyd scored the goals

This leaves Gloucestershire at the top, but only by one point from Cornwall, Dorset and Devon. Today there are three key matches. Devon face Wiltshire at Charlton Park (10.30); Cornwall play Avon (2.0), followed by Gloucestershire v Somerset at Cheltenham Ladies' College (2.45).

Dorset will most probably beat Herefordshire today (11.15), but they will have a harder game to follow. At Folkestone the wintry weather caused the postponement of all the matches in the East Anglia tournament and they will be played on Sunday afternoon.

RESULTS: South: Hampshire II 3, Oxfordshire II 1; Middlesex II 3, Surrey II 1; Civil Service 2, Buckingham II 0, Berkshire 0, Buckinghamshire 0; Middlesex 1, Sussex 1; Surrey 2, Oxfordshire 0; Berkshire II 1, Sussex II 1; ULU 0, Surrey II 1, Hampshire 2, English Universities 1. West: Gloucestershire 2, Avon 2; Devon 3, Herefordshire 0, Dorset 2, Somerset 1; Cornwall 2, Wiltshire 0. North: Cumberland 1, Lancashire Central League 4; Durham 0, Yorkshire 1; Northumberland 0, Manchester League 1; Cheshire 0, Lancashire 0; Westmorland 0, Sheffield League 3.

Rugby League

Salford seek silver lining to their gloomy cloud

By Keith Macklin

After enjoying nearly four months of steady and consistent first division triumphs, Salford found their Christmas celebrations marred by Kipling's other twin imposter, disaster.

First Bradford Northern, and then Widnes, exposed the current limitations in Salford's championship challenge by winning with a little to spare. Bang went Salford's leadership of the table and the only remaining unbeaten record.

They seem to have little hope of an immediate improvement. This afternoon they travel to Humberside, not normally the most hospitable place for visiting sides, to meet a Hull Kingston Rovers side high in the table and anxious to recover lost pride following defeat in the floodlit cup final.

Rovers are giving late fitness tests to Lockwood and Hall, and are still without Millward. However the Yorkshire side seem able to cope with absences much better than Salford, whose slump has coincided with the injury to their key back, Ken Gill. Ironically Gill would have missed this afternoon's fixture anyway, since he was suspended for two matches at yesterday's hearing of the disciplinary committee.

Even if Salford win today their return to the top of the table could be transient. Tomorrow, Widnes go to Wigan, who are haunted by fears of relegation, and with Leeds and Bradford Northern taking a day off a Widnes victory would put the Cheshire side on top.

Wigan's new scrum half from Wales, Ness Flowers, gets another chance to prove the value of his signing after a good debut against St Helens. A problem for Widnes could be the number of injuries besetting them. They have the strongest squad in the league and may need replacements for Hughes, Shaw, Gorley, Bentley and Hull. A bright piece of news for Widnes is that their captain and scrum half, Bowden, has a good chance of being fit. This would mean that Widnes have their starter motor back, and the engine tends to tick over by instinct.

Wakefield Trinity have made a useful revival recently and they could take advantage of a slump by Warrington. Trinity will be without their lively second row forward, incongruously named Idle, but former England Rugby Union centre, Keith Smith could be fit.

The leading second division game brings together the top two clubs, Featherstone Rovers and Oldham. Featherstone will have to find a replacement for their winger, Marsden, suspended for two games yesterday, and possibly for an injured centre, Coventry.

Other suspensions yesterday were: D. Hossell (Doncaster) six matches; P. Woods (Hull) and E. Szymala (four matches each); S. Brunyee (Batley) two matches; C. Ganley (Warrington), P. Muscroft (Hunslet), R. Wileman (Hull) and M. Nicholas (Warrington), one match each.

SPORT

Tennis

Miss Ruzici goes out in tense match of changing fortunes

Melbourne, Dec 28.—Virginia Ruzici, of Romania, the top seed in the Australian Open tennis championships, was eliminated in the first round of the women's singles here today. Miss Ruzici, ranked 13 in the world, fell to the West Australian, Mary Sawyer, ranked 152 in the world, 6—0, 2—6, 4—6.

In an amazing match, Miss Ruzici reeled off the first eight games before the 22-year-old Miss Sawyer turned the tables to win the next eight in a row.

After the opening set, Miss Ruzici appeared to be on the way to an effortless victory and took the first two games of the second set before the West Australian began to hit back. Miss Sawyer held service, winning her first game in the match to fall 1—2 behind in the second set. She broke service to level the scores and then ran through the set.

Games went with service until the fifth of the deciding set when the Romanian broke service. However, three successive breaks followed until Miss Sawyer held service to lead 5—4 and then broke again after holding three match points in the crucial tenth game.

The West Australian said after the match that she had started slowly because of nerves. "I started moving around in the second set", she said. "My serve was lousy but it's just as well the other things were OK."

Miss Sawyer attributed her win to training over the past few days and jogging "to run off Christmas dinner".

In a sparkling return to form Syd Ball, of New South Wales, moved into the third round with a win in straight sets over Bill Maze, of the United States, 6—3, 6—4, 6—3.

He has not won a singles match since last January and has spent the year trying to lower his golf handicap and fishing near his home in Newport Beach, California.

Ball was on the brink of tossing in his career as a tournament professional. However, his morale has been given a sudden boost by two fine wins here. Ball defeated the No 4 seed, Hank Pfister, of the United States, yesterday, and overwhelmed Maze in today's match.

John Sadri, of the United States, recovered from being two sets down to beat Kim Warwick, of Australia, 3—6, 4—6, 6—3, 6—2, 9—7 in the third round.

Warwick battled against the heat and dizzy spells in an attempt to sustain his fine start. During the last set he served at half pace at times and ran to the net only to be beaten by a splendid passing shot from Sadri.

Warwick said he had suffered occasional dizzy spells ever since he had hepatitis in 1973. "I didn't want to let the third set go but I just did not have the energy", he said.

After the two hours, 30 minutes' tussle, Sadri said: "I knew that if there was any way I could beat him it would be through fitness. I really have a lot of confidence in my strength."

Miss Ruzici: relinquished her early advantage.

MEN'S SINGLES: Second round (Australians unless stated): S. Ball beat W. Maze (US), 6—3, 6—4, 6—3; P. Rennert (US) beat S. Krulevitz (US), 6—4, 7—6, 6—1; M. Edmondson beat W. Maher, 7—6, 6—1, 6—4. Third round: J. Sadri (US) beat K. Warwick, 3—6, 4—6, 6—3, 6—2, 9—7; V. Amaya (US) beat P. McNamee, 7—6, 6—3, 7—6.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: First round: Miss M. Sawyer beat Miss V. Ruzici (Romania), 0—6, 6—2, 6—4; Miss S. Walsh (US) beat Miss M. Meskor (Netherlands), 6—7, 6—2, 6—4; Miss J. Dieselin (W Germany) beat Miss J. Diamond, 7—5, 6—1; Miss N. Sato (Japan) beat Miss E. Little, 7—5, 6—4; Miss J. Newberry (US) beat Miss D. Evers, 6—4, 6—4.—Reuter.

Basketball

Flying Finns reduce the English challenge

By Nicholas Harling

The English challenge got off to a disappointing start when the Coventry side, Team Fiat, suffered a 10-point defeat in the first senior men's match of the third World invitation club championships, sponsored by Phillips, at Crystal Palace yesterday.

Team Fiat were always trailing to Helsinki YMCA, and they eventually went down 88—78 to the first Finnish club to appear in the tournament. Fiat seemed to be heading for a much heavier defeat when they went in at the interval facing a 51-34 deficit. But they made a contest of the second half by pulling back to within seven points, after which they could never quite achieve the vital breakthrough.

The game was dominated by Americans, Helsinki's pair possessing more combined power and accuracy than that managed by Fiat's Greg White, who was forced to go it alone for long periods. White, ginger-haired, and 6ft 8in tall, was the game's top scorer with 29 points, but Fiat might have made a far closer match of it had they not employed the tournament's tallest player, 7ft 1in tall, Jim Zoet, so sparingly, that he finished with only 12 points.

With three of the five permitted fouls against them before half-time, Zoet had to sit out long periods while his colleagues battled to contain the 6 ft 10 ins Kevin Graham (26 points) and Gerald Lee (18). Zoet, a certainty for Canada's Olympic team, eventually lasted until 33 seconds from the end. In the time he was on court his physical aerial confrontation with Graham captured the attention but it was the less conspicuous contribution of the agile Lee that prevented Fiat settling down or achieving any sort of cohesion.

Helsinki were fortunate that Graham kept out of trouble for the last eight minutes, to see the game out with one foul to spare, but they never looked in danger of failing to secure a place in the next round, in which they will meet the Dutch side, Parker Pen Leiden, today.

OTHER RESULTS: Windsor Ontario 86, Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead 73. Women, pool A: Crystal Palace 50, Kokoyde (Belgium) 39; pool B: Parker Pen 56, Rank Xerox (Sweden) 89.

Racing

Great runner-up may be first at last

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Beaten into second place in four valuable races during the past 13 months, Zongalero surely has a good chance of going one better in the Mandarin Handicap Steeplechase at Newbury today. No horse in training deserves to win a race of this nature more than my selection, who was runner-up in the Grand National and the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in that period.

Inevitably a horse's courage tends to be questioned in such circumstances, but I thought that Zongalero did absolutely nothing wrong at Newbury in November when he was beaten a length-and-a-half in the Hennessy by last season's Scottish Grand National winner, Fighting Fit. And in my opinion it is only fair to give him another chance this afternoon.

In the absence of Stephen Smith-Eccles who is nursing a broken collar-bone, Zongalero will be ridden today by Bob Davies, as he was in this year's Grand National. Master Smudge, who finished fifth in the Hennessy, seven lengths behind Zongalero, has been allowed 5 lb by the handicapper, but that should not be enough. Master Smudge will certainly revel in the ground, softened greatly by Thursday's rain, but he should not be nearly as fresh as Zongalero so soon after his hard race in the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow a week ago.

Chumson, who started favourite for that race, had a heavy fall when he was brought down early on by Deiopea. It remains to be seen whether or not such an unpleasant experience has affected his confidence. If it has not, Chumson must be a danger to one and all. He was a good stayer in New Zealand where he was bred and spent his formative years. As for the others, Scroggy has not even run this season, and both New Formula and Parkhouse would have less to carry if this were an elongated handicap.

The Panama Cigar Hurdle (qualifier) and the l'Oreal Handicap Hurdle could easily turn out to be profitable outlets for two horses who were due to have met each other in the Salmon Spray Pattern Hurdle at Fontwell Park yesterday until that meeting became a victim of the weather. The two in question are Lumen and Jack O'Lantern. Lumen (1.0) obviously has Wayward Lad to beat. An inmate of the seemingly irrepressible Dickinson stable, Wayward Lad has won all his races this season, but taken overall his form is not as good as that boasted by Lumen.

Jack O'Lantern, my selection for the l'Oreal Handicap Hurdle, revels in mud, as one might expect of a horse by Jimmy Reppin. So he should be in his element this afternoon. Last season he was successful at Lingfield Park, Fontwell Park and Ascot. He also won at Cheltenham this autumn, but ruined whatever chance he had of winning the Buchanan Whisky Hurdle at Ascot in November by completely fluffing his jump at the third last hurdle. Bootlaces, Sheer Silk, Mackelly and Calinago are four others whose chances cannot be overlooked. But I still prefer Jack O'Lantern in this instance.

Were Calinago to win, his rider, Lorna Vincent, would be triumphing in a valuable hurdle race for the third Saturday in succession. Calinago has won all his races this season, but I cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that in an extended handicap he would have only 8 st 7 lb to carry, and that this afternoon he will have to carry nearly 21 lb more.

Young Pretender rebuffed: Tarbank (right) takes the last fence to win the Elcot Novices Steeplechase at Newbury.

The high spot or the low spot of the racing at Newbury yesterday—depending on which way you look at it—occurred as the Ramsbury Hurdle reached its climax. For it was then that probably the most extraordinary incident that I have witnessed in the 18 years that I have written about racing occurred. After jumping the last flight with the race at his mercy, Random Leg suddenly swerved so sharply to his right that he almost collided with Major Swallow, who had been all of 10 yards away from him approaching the jump.

It was a manoeuvre that a snipe would have been proud of, but it sadly cost the connexions of Random Leg first prize and his backers their money. So amazing was the camera patrol film it might even be given an X certificate in the Jockey club files. The only explanation that I can offer is the Random Leg's rider, Richard Rowe, attempted to get a new grip on the reins after jumping the last flight, missed and dropped the left rein. Rowe himself was at a loss to come up with an explanation, but the film showed his left arm suddenly reaching out behind his back as if to grab the buckle. And as he did so, Random Leg ducked violently to his right. A collision was averted only by the alertness of Malcolm Bastard.

The stewards had no option but to disqualify Random Leg and award first prize to Major Swallow, whom he had beaten all ends up. The only consolation as far as Random Leg's owner, Major Derek Wigan, was concerned was that in this extremely attractive former Irish four-year-old, he has undoubtedly bought a very promising young horse. Random Leg's jumping had been as quick as lightning until he threw it all away.

An hour earlier Celtic Isle stayed on strongly to win the Challow Hurdle watched by his trainer, Fred Rimell, and his owner, Mrs Robin Knipe, who also bred the horse. The ironical aspect of this result is that Rimell spent a small fortune earlier this year buying horses who might win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham in March, and arguably the best in their stable is now his bonny little bay. He was bred by their daughter and is only with them because he failed to attract a single bid when he was twice sent up for sale at Doncaster, first when he was a yearling, and again last May.

Celtic Isle has now won four of his five races this season, and there is a valid excuse for his only defeat at Sandown Park. Apparently he hung very badly that day, so badly in fact that the bit slipped right through his mouth, and as a result he swallowed his tongue. In order to prevent that happening yesterday, he raced in a three-piece bit, a cross nose-band and blinkers. And it certainly did the trick.

Like Celtic Ryde, Celtic Isle is by that versatile stallion, Celtic Cone, who won the Panama Cigar Hurdle final, the Yorkshire Cup and the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot for Frank Cundell, who was one of the stewards at Newbury yesterday. Celtic Cone now stands on Mrs Knipe's Cobhall Stud in Herefordshire, so she had more than one reason to smile yesterday.

Cheltenham target

Venture to Cognac has his next outing in the Worthington "E" Novices Steeplechase at Cheltenham on Tuesday. He will again be partnered by his owner's son, Oliver Sherwood.

Salkeld can sparkle for effervescent Crump

By Michael Seely

There must be something invigorating about the air in the little town of Middleham, high up on the Yorkshire moors. Neville Crump, the trainer of three Grand National winners and now in his seventieth year, is still as successful and sprightly as ever. On Boxing Day, this remarkable veteran sent Bellef Lord down to Wetherby to foil the spirited challenge of the Massey-Ferguson Gold Cup winner, Father Delaney, in the Rowland Meyrick Steeplechase. This afternoon at Newcastle, Crump could well win the most valuable race of the meeting, the Northumbria Handicap Steeplechase with Salkeld.

Freddie Newton, the clerk of the course, said that racing would have been possible at Newcastle yesterday and that no inspection was planned. "The rain has stopped, and the only thing that could threaten racing is a heavy frost overnight". Mr Newton went on to add that the upward trend in racecourse attendances had been reflected at Gosforth Park in 1979, despite the loss of seven out of 27 of their allotted days. "Seventeen per cent more people came racing and we have taken 25 per cent more in cash at the turnstiles."

Salkeld is the tough type of stayer that Crump loves to handle. "He's only seven, and could win me another National one day," the trainer said yesterday. In his most recent race, a four mile handicap at Haydock Park, Salkeld had a titanic struggle with Jer on the long run-in and was a neck behind at the line. This seems good enough form to account for today's moderate opposition. For although Jer could only finish third to Jimmy Miff on his next outing, Jimmy Miff then went on to beat Artistic Prince at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day.

Salkeld has been a model of consistency this season, only once finishing out of the first three in five races. That solitary lapse occurred in Good Prospect's race at Carlisle in October. "The only thing that worries me," Crump went on, "is that that is the only time that Salkeld has run in soft ground this season. And it's sure to be hock-deep at Newcastle. I shall have to put it down to Salkeld having an off day."

Of his opponents John O'Neill's mount, Three To One, romped home in soft ground at Kelso last time out. But Ken Oliver's novice was allotted only 9st 4lb in the long handicap so he has something to find on the book. Moorside and Another Captain are both honest plodders, but Salkeld cannot be opposed.

The novice hurdles at Newcastle are always keenly contested. The best bet in these would appear to be Tudor Folly who runs in the second division of the Alnwick Castle Hurdle. Arthur Stephenson's three-year-old jumped like a buck when slamming Onapromise by five lengths at Haydock Park. And Onapromise did that form no harm at all when subsequently winning by 15 lengths at Ayr.

The champion trainer, Peter Easterby, saddles Falkelly, who justified favouritism on his first appearance over hurdles at Teesside Park in mid-December. Peter's brother, Michael, runs Skewsby, who won twice on the flat this autumn. Any market move for this newcomer to the winter game must be noted. However, Tudor Folly looked a cut above the average northern novice in his Haydock Park victory and must take a deal of beating.

Meetings abandoned: There will be no racing at Worcester today. Hugo Bevan, the clerk of the course, said shortly before noon today: "Tomorrow's fixture has been abandoned because the course is flooded." Yesterday's meetings at Stratford-on-Avon and Fontwell Park were abandoned because the courses were waterlogged.

STATE OF GOING (official): Newbury, heavy; Newcastle, heavy; Leicester, heavy (hurdles), soft (steeplechase). Monday: Catterick Bridge, soft; Warwick, heavy.

For the record

Tennis

PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK: Junior tournament: Quarter-final round: Boys (12 years): M. Nastase (Romania) beat C. Comfort (US), 6—1, 6—1; A. Padovani (Italy) beat M. Osherov (Israel), 6—3, 1—6, 6—4; B. Oresar (Yugoslavia) beat G. Bloom (Israel), 7—5, 6—2; S. Ribeiro (Brazil) beat R. Benvin (US), 7—5, 4—6, 6—2. 18: S. Svensson (Sweden) beat J. Barner (US) ... [illegible]

Ice hockey

[illegible] ... NEW YORK: Exhibition match: Soviet Army 5, New York Rangers 2. HELSINKI: Junior world championships: Soviet Union 8, Canada 5; Sweden 5, United States 5.

Cycling

COLOGNE: Six-day event, first day: 1, H. Schuetz and R. Herrmann (Germany-Liechtenstein), 20pts; 2, G. Braun and W. Peffgen (Germany), 9; 3, D. Clark and R. Pijnen (Australia-Netherlands), 7.

Yachting

Bumblebee hopes of record dashed by calm conditions

Sydney, Dec 28.—Near Millpon conditions off the east coast of Tasmania today dashed Bumblebee IV's hopes of setting a record time for the Sydney to Hobart race. After almost 24 hours of brisk 20 to 25 knot north easterly breezes the wind dropped to less than five knots as the fleet threaded its way down the Tasmanian coast.

Although Bumblebee IV, brilliantly skippered by a Sydney businessman, John Kahlbetzer, managed to increase her lead she managed only 65 miles in the eight hours between the morning and afternoon radio positional reports.

The Sydney sloop led by 18 miles from Condor, of Burmuda with the West Australian sloop Siska dropping back to join the early leader, Helsel II, in the battle for third place three miles further astern.

The afternoon report showed Bumblebee still 150 miles from the finish, with only 11 hours to beat the race record set by the giant American yacht, Kialoa, in 1975. The lighter conditions were frustrating for the big yachts and threw wide open the battle for handicap honours. The afternoon positional report placed the 33-foot Tasmanian Salandra in the lead on corrected time, closely followed by Melbourne's Pirra and another Tasmanian half tonner Screw Loose.

New South Wales' hopes of winning the Southern Cross Cup series were considerably boosted by the continued impressive form of the Newcastle one tonner Relentless, skippered by Peter Hankin. Relentless relished the lighter conditions and forged into sixth place on corrected time to place her in a strong position for outright victory in the ocean classic.

Britain had a disastrous day with *Marionette*, *Yeoman XXI* and *Blizzard* dropping back to twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, and twenty-seventh respectively in the list of cup contenders. Britain went into the Sydney to Hobart race with a commanding 42-point lead in the series over Victoria and 63 ahead of New South Wales. But the Sydney to Hobart carries triple points.

Weekend fixtures

Kick off 3.0 unless stated

First division

Brighton v Manchester C
Bristol C v Aston Villa
Coventry v Nottm Forest
C Palace v Middlesbrough
Everton v Derby
Ipswich v Wolverhampton
Leeds v Norwich
Manchester U v Arsenal
Southampton v Bolton
Tottenham H v Stoke
West Bromwich v Liverpool

Second division

Birmingham v Cardiff
Fulham v Sunderland
Leicester v QP Rangers
Newcastle v Charlton
Notts C v Burnley
Oldham v West Ham
Orient v Luton
Shrewsbury v Bristol R
Swansea v Preston
Watford v Cambridge U
Wrexham v Chelsea

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham v Norwich Victoria; Barnet v Scarborough; Barrow v Wealdstone; Boston United v Bangor City; Gravesend v AP Leamington; Redditch v Maidstone; Stafford Rangers v Yeovil; Telford v Kettering; Worcester v Nuneaton.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Barry v Alvechurch; Bedford v Witney Town; Cambridge City v Kidderminster; Gloucester [illegible]; Corby v Enderby; Merthyr Tydfil v Bromsgrove; Milton Keynes v Gloucester; Stourbridge v King's Lynn; Taunton v Bridgend; Wellingborough v Banbury. Southern division: Aylesbury v Addlestone; Basingstoke v Gosport; Bognor Regis v Crawley; Canterbury v Waterlooville; Dartford v Chelmsford; Dorchester v Andover; Dunstable v Margate; Fareham Town v Tonbridge; Folkestone Shepway v Poole; Hastings v Dover; Salisbury v Ashford.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Buxton v Frickley; Goole v Grantham; Marine v Oswestry; Morecambe v Macclesfield; Netherfield v Gateshead; Runcorn v Lancaster; South Liverpool v Workington; Southport v Matlock; Tamworth v Gainsborough; Witton Albion v Mossley; Worksop v Burton Albion.

IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Linfield (2.15); Bangor v Glenavon (2.15); Coleraine v Crusaders (2.15); Distillery v Larne (2.15); Glentoran v Cliftonville; Portadown v Ards (2.15).

FA VASE: Third round: Canvey Island v Grays Athletic (1.45).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood v Oxford City; Dagenham v Hitchin Town; Dulwich Hamlet v Tilbury; Harlow Town v Slough Town; Wycombe Wanderers v Barking. First division: Bishop's Stortford v Bromley; Chesham United v Aveley; Clapton v St Albans City; Farnborough Town v Harwich and Parkeston; Horsham v Hertford Town; Maidenhead United v Ware; Wokingham Town v Leytonstone and Ilford. Second division: Eastbourne United v Barton Rovers; Hemel Hempstead v Worthing; Hungerford Town v Cheshunt; Letchworth GC v Billericay Town; Lewes v Rainham Town; Tring Town v Corinthian Casuals.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Alton v Redhill; Chalfont St Peter v Uxbridge; Hoddesdon Town v Harefield United; Leyton-Wingate v Woodford Town; Marlow v Burnham; Windsor and Eton v Chertsey Town.

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Cheadle v Boardman and Eccles; Old Hulmeians v Mellor; Old Waconians v Urmston; Sheffield University v Timperley; South Manchester and Wythenshawe v Heaton Mersey; Stockport v Old Stopfordians.

Third division

Brentford v Swindon
Bury v Blackburn (3.15)
Carlisle v Sheffield W
Chester v Blackpool
Colchester v Rotherham
Mansfield v Exeter
Millwall v Gillingham
Oxford U v Hull
Plymouth v Chesterfield
Reading v Barnsley
Sheffield U v Grimsby
Southend v Wimbledon

Fourth division

Bournemouth v Darlington
Doncaster v Huddersfield
Halifax v Peterborough
Hartlepool v Rochdale
Lincoln v York
Newport v Walsall (3.15)
Portsmouth v Northampton
Port Vale v Aldershot
Scunthorpe v Hereford (3.15)
Torquay v Crewe
Wigan v Stockport

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Dundee v St Mirren (P)
Kilmarnock v Dundee U
Morton v Partick
Rangers v Celtic

Basketball

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Crystal Palace): Men's quarter-final round: 2.15, 7.30, 9.15.

TV highlights

BBC 1
Football: Preview (12.20); Match of the Day (10.0).
Racing: Newbury races at 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30.
Skiing: International jumping (1.10 and 1.40).
Basketball: World Invitation (2.40 and 4.0).
Rugby League: Hull KR v Salford (3.5).
Cricket: Australia v West Indies (3.50).

BBC 2
Cricket: Australia v West Indies (5.45).

ITV
Football: Preview (12.35).
Racing: Newcastle races at 1.30, 2.0, 2.30, and 3.0; Leicester races at 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45.
Stock car racing: Foxhall Stadium, Ipswich (3.10).
Wrestling: Blackburn promotion (4.0).
Golf: Ryder Cup 1979 (11.45).

BBC 2—tomorrow
Skiing: Jumping (4.45).
Rugby Union: Review of the 1970s (5.20).
Cricket: Australia v West Indies (6.40).

ITV—tomorrow
Football: Big Match (2.15).

Scottish first division

Airdrie v Raith
Clyde v Clydebank
Dumbarton v Hamilton
Dunfermline v Berwick
Hearts v Ayr
Motherwell v Arbroath
St Johnstone v Stirling (P)

Scottish second division

Albion v Montrose
Alloa v Queen of South
Cowdenbeath v Stranraer
East Fife v E Stirling
Forfar v Meadowbank
Queen's Pk v Falkirk
Stenhousemuir v Brechin

Rugby Union

Bath v Northampton
Bedford v Rosslyn Park
Birmingham v Birkenhead Park (2.30)
Blackheath v The Army (2.15)
Boroughmuir v Edinburgh Wanderers (2.30)
Bridgend v Gloucester
Bristol v Llanelli
Broughton Park v West of Scotland (2.45)
Camborne v Penryn (2.30)
Cardiff v Coventry
Ebbw Vale v Aberavon
Gala v Jedforest (2.30)
Glasgow High v Stewarts Mel FP (2.30)
Gosforth v Hawick (2.15)
Halifax v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30)
Harlequins v London Scottish (2.15) (Stoop Memorial Ground)
Huddersfield v Rugby (2.30)
Hull and ER v Bradford (2.30)
Jordanhill v Hillhead (2.30)
Kilmarnock v Langholm (2.30)
Leicester v Headingley
Liverpool v Manchester (2.30)
London Irish v Esher (2.15)
Melrose v Kelso (2.30)
Morley v New Brighton (2.30)
Moseley v Waterloo
Newport v St Luke's Coll (2.15)
Nottingham v Wasps
Orrell v Sheffield (2.30)
Penarth v Newbridge
Plymouth Albion v Exeter (2.45)
Pontypridd v Neath
Richmond v Saracens (2.15)
Roundhay v Hartlepool Rovers (2.30)
Sale v Fylde
South Wales Police v Pontypool (2.30)
Tredegar v Maesteg
Wakefield v Harrogate (2.30)

Rugby League

First division
Hull K.R. v Salford (2.15).

Tomorrow

RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Borough v Workington (2.30); Hunslet v Castleford (3.0); Wakefield Trinity v Warrington (3.0); Wigan v Widnes (3.0); York v Hull (2.30). Second division: Batley v Barrow (2.30); Doncaster v Dewsbury (2.30); Featherstone Rovers v Oldham (2.30); Keighley v Halifax (3.15); Swinton v Bramley (3.0); Whitehaven v Huyton (3.0).

Basketball

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Crystal Palace): Men's semi-final round, 4.15, 7.30.

Hockey

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: Hertfordshire v Middlesex (St Albans HC, 1.15); RAF v Leicestershire (RAF Brize Norton, 2.0); Cheshire v Gloucestershire (Wilmslow HC, 1.45).

OTHER MATCHES: Berkshire "A" v Buckingham "A" (Reading); Berkshire U-21 v Buckinghamshire U-21 (Reading); Norfolk U-21 v Cambridgeshire U-21 (North Runcton); Worcestershire U-21 v Gloucestershire U-21 (Redditch).

WOMEN'S COUNTY MATCHES: East (Folkestone); Midlands (Bedford); North (Lytham St Annes); South (Southampton); West (Cheltenham).

Newbury programme

[Television (BBC 1): 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races]

12.30 WANTAGE CHASE (Novices: £1,209: 2m 160yds)

8 33p000- Chameleon, Mrs V. Crow, 8-11-0 ... J. Barlow
10 00-pf Halle Lady, C. Bewicke, 8-11-0 ... P. Barton
11 2- Lanka, W. Price, 7-11-2 ... J. Williams
12 0-00000 Loch Royale, C. Bewicke, 7-11-0 ... P. Carvill 7

4-7 Lanka, 9-2 Loch Royale, 5-1 Chameleon, 8-1 Halle Lady.

1.0 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (Qualifier: 4-y-o: £2,063: 2m 100yds)

[illegible]

1.30 L'OREAL HURDLE (Handicap: £4,071: 2m 100yds)

[illegible]

2.0 MANDARIN CHASE (Handicap: £3,908: 3m 82yds)

[illegible]
410 111- Scroggy, O. Balding, 7-10-2 ... R. Linley
411 2 New Formula, T. Forster, 9-10-0 ... P. Barton
413 00-0331 Parkhouse, Mrs M. Easton, 10-10-0 ... Mr N. Betters 7

9-4 Zongalero, 3-1 Chumson, 7-2 Master Smudge, 6-1 Scroggy, 8-1 New Formula, Parkhouse.

2.30 OLD YEAR CHASE (Handicap: £2,380: 2m 160yds)

[illegible]

3.0 NEWTOWN HURDLE (Handicap: novices: £1,135: 2½m 120yds)

[illegible]

* Doubtful runner.

Newbury selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.30 Lanka. 1.0 Lumen. 1.30 JACK O'LANTERN is specially recommended. 2.0 Zongalero. 2.30 Dyscole. 3.0 Intersport.

Newbury results

12.30 (12.32) ELCOT PARK CHASE

TARBANK ... [illegible]

1.0 (1.0) HUNGERFORD CHASE

[illegible]

1.30 (1.31) CHALLOW HURDLE

CELTIC ISLE ... [illegible]

2.0 (2.2) WEYHILL CHASE (handicap)

BROWN JOCK ... [illegible]

2.30 (2.32) RAMSBURY HURDLE

[illegible] Random Leg finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry Major Swallow was placed first and Random Leg relegated to second place.

3.0 (3.0) ABINGDON OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (handicap: £716: 2m)

REGAL CHOICE, br g, by Armagnac Monarch—Right Choice (W. Haine), 9-10-3 ... J. Waite (5-2) 1
Jolly Mick ... M. Barrett (5-2) 2
Gun Powder ... M. Stevenson (8-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Knocknagum (f), 20-1 Starsky (4th), 25-1 Victa Steel, Ask Me Nicely. 7 ran.

TOTE: Win, 44p; places, 27p, 14p. Dual F: 54p. CSF: 88p. J. Haine, at Hardwicke. 12l, head.

TOTE DOUBLE: Celtic Isle and Major Swallow, £3.95. TOTE TREBLE: Pencraig, Brown Jock and Regal Choice, £10.60. JACKPOT: £141.35. PLACEPOT: £42.85.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Fair Gazelle, Kenis Mill, Donscot, Testwood Park.

Newcastle programme

[Television (ITV): 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]

12.30 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Novices: £1,201: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

1.0 GAME BIRD CHASE (Handicap: £1,634: 2½m)

[illegible]

1.30 NORTHUMBRIA CHASE (Handicap: £2,326: 3m)

[illegible]

2.0 VAUX BREWERIES CHASE (Qualifier: novices: £1,336: 3m)

[illegible]

2.30 LADBROKE BETCHA HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,704: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

3.0 ALNWICK CASTLE HURDLE (3-y-o novices: £1,124: 2m 120yds)

3121 Tudor Folly, W. A. Stephenson, 11-4 ... R. Lamb
[illegible]
Donsara, C. Booth, 10-12 ... G. Rippa 7
0 James Ward, J. Wilson, 10-12 ... Miss G. Rees 7
Jubilee Saint, Miss S. Hall, 10-12 ... D. Goulding
020 Mr Rafferty, Denys Smith, 10-12 ... C. Grant
0 New House Estate, T. Fairhurst, 10-12 ... A. Fairhurst 7
0 Obsequious, E. Carter, 10-12 ... M. Lowry
Plantaganet, J. Mason, 10-12 ... S. Charlton
Skewsby, M. W. Easterby, 10-12 ... P. Tuck 4
0 Sofilgenn, J. Wilson, 10-12 ... C. McSharry 7

6-4 Falkelly, 2-1 Tudor Folly, 7-1 Jubilee Saint, 8-1 Mr Rafferty, 12-1 Skewsby, Arctic Timber, 20-1 others.

* Doubtful runner.

Newcastle selections

By Michael Seely

12.30 Scrunch. 1.0 Crown Court. 1.30 SALKELD is specially recommended. 2.0 Cashea. 2.30 Clayside. 3.0 Tudor Folly

Leicester programme

[Television (ITV): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

12.15 PYTCHLEY HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £604: 2m)

[illegible]

12.45 PYTCHLEY HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £556: 2m)

[illegible]

1.15 HOBY SELLING HURDLE (£559: 2m)

[illegible]

1.45 QUORN CHASE (Novices: £1,654: 2m)

[illegible]

2.15 HANCOCK CHASE (Handicap: £1,096: 2½m)

[illegible]

2.45 GALLOWTREE CHASE (Novices: £1,163: 3m)

[illegible]

3.15 MIDLAND HURDLE (Handicap: £701: 2m)

6 30-3230 Princely Chief (D), D. Ringer, 7-11-1 ... S. McNeill 4
7 432000 Benevolence (D), W. Clay, 6-10-13 ... N. Clay
8 020302 Dunseda Daughter (D), J. Spearing, 6-10-12 ... A. Webb
13 000 Hunters Gift, D. H. Jones, 7-10-8 ...
17 0430-04 Fob (CD), A. Birch, 8-10-5 ... F. Morris 4
19 040240 What-A-Prince (D), R. Morris, 6-10-0 ...
21 102010 Gentle Rose (D), M. Chapman, 8-10-0 ... J. Kerley 4
23 0-00000 George Kirtland (D), J. Pridey, 7-10-0 ... G. Jones
26 0- Glazepta Rework (D), K. Bridgwater, 5-10-0 ... S. O'Neill 4

9-4 Princely Chief, 3-1 Dunseda Daughter, 9-2 Fob, 6-1 Gentle Rose, 8-1 What-A-Prince, 10-1 Benevolence, 12-1 Glazepta Rework, 20-1 others.

Leicester selections

By Michael Seely

12.15 O'Down. 12.45 Record Willie. 1.15 Alexa Reppin. 1.45 Quarto. 2.15 Might Be. 2.45 Lasobany. 3.15 Fob.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

Stock markets
FT Ind 417.8, up 3.1
FT Gilts 65.49, up 0.03

Sterling
$2.2345, down 55 points
Index 70.3, down 0.2

Dollar
Index 85.1, up 0.2

Gold
$510 an ounce, down $1.00

3-month money
Inter-bank 17-1/16 to 16 15/16
Euro-$ 14⅜ to 14⅛

IN BRIEF

...bsidies of ...m for ...anese ...pbuilding

... will provide subsidies ... 33,500m yen (£64m) ... next eight years to ...ipping lines build 1.04 ... gross tons of ships un... official programme ... April, next year.

...otal, approved by the ... ministry, includes ...yen to be supplied in ...80. The rest over the ... seven years in ...es by the government. ...bsidies are intended to ...erest differentials and ...e the rates of interest ...shipping lines to about ...nt per annum.

...ps reach £1.4m

...-Skyships, the Isle of ...d aerospace company, ...ied the minimum sub... of £1.4m with its ...fer for sale. The com... now be able to con... its project to develop ...han-air craft.

...nerger ruling

...nia's Department of ... Beverage Control has ... the proposed merger ...ard Johnson with ... Group would not con... the "tied house" ...alifornia.

...de deficit

...nited States trade ... to $1,420 million in ... from $2,020 million ... it was announced in ... yesterday.

...rates rise

...er cent general rate ... ocean freight mov... een United States ... Australia and New ... will become effective ...1.

...ngines loan

... to make a loan of ... (about £3.3m) to a ...ject between Rolls ... two Japanese part... ...relop a jet engine for ...oge commercial air...

...ports up

... exports in 1979 are ... to have totalled ...10m (£3,383m), an ...nt increase from 1978, ...xport Board says in ...d review.

...urning

...rman employers in ... have warned union ... a 10 per cent wage ...steel workers could ...ace in the industry. ...s are due to start ...t on the claim by IG ...rope's biggest engin...

...il exploration

...inning, the British ...xploration company, ...d to spend $83m ...ver the next eight ...pecting for oil and ..., in Egypt's western

...ets record

...nts and parts worth ...0m were bought this ...lvo the Swedish car ...rom its 300 United ...uppliers. The com... a record 36,500 cars ... a rise of 22 per cent

Extension of kits contract with Iran expected by Chrysler UK

By John Huxley

Chrysler (UK) is now confident that, barring any further serious political unrest or deterioration in trading conditions, its contract to supply car kits to Iran will be extended.

The company has a 10-year deal to supply parts for the Peykan, the Hunter-based model assembled by Iran National Industrial Manufacturing at its plant near Tehran. The contract is due to expire in 1980, but 12 months' notice is required by each partner if it is to be terminated.

So far the contract is believed to have been worth more than £1,000m, although Chrysler has never put a value on the work.

The export sales performance of the company has been badly affected by the political situation. Production at the Iran national plant was disrupted last year. The shipment of kits was severely cut back in the final quarter of last year and heavily reduced in the first half of 1979. This resulted in several hundred workers being laid off at Chrysler plants in the Midlands.

Earlier this year, however, production was resumed and fresh commercial arrangements finalized with the new owners of Iran National, which accounts for about two-thirds of Iran's car output.

The proportion of finished cars produced locally has been increasing for a number of years and this has reduced the amount of parts supplied to the Iranians.

Chrysler (UK) officials remain cautious about the situation in Iran. However they say that work is slowly returning to pre-revolution levels and there are no longer any payment problems.

Over the past decade, production targets for the Peykan have proved optimistic. For 1978-79 the goal was 132,000 units but earlier this year production dropped to 4,000 a month. At the same time the plant returned to single-shift working, partly to conserve stocks at a time when supplies were uncertain.

Production has since climbed to 6,500 cars a month, according to Chrysler sources. There are now plans to return to two-shift working and a predicted output of 9,000 cars a month.

The value of export sales to Iran during 1978 was £104m. This accounted for more than a half of Chrysler (UK) exports. Sales in Iran in 1977 were slightly higher at £108m.

Production for the resumption of exports to Iran was held up this year by the 14-week strike at Chrysler's Stoke plant. This meant that normal production did not resume until October 25.

Chrysler (UK)—which becomes Talbot on January 1—earlier this month was successful in its negotiations to achieve the substantial productivity improvements demanded by its parent, Peugeot Citroen. The French company has also won a share in the Iranian car market.

Mr George Turnbull, managing director of Chrysler (UK) has said that he is looking for a 25 per cent improvement in productivity. But he has given a warning that if the loss-making subsidiary does not make a profit soon, Peugeot could well withdraw financing.

Big problems beset Insac plans for expansion into US

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Insac Products, the computer software marketing subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board, plans a major expansion of its activities in the United States next year. But the company faces urgent problems in its relationships with its member companies.

In a two-pronged attack on the American market, Insac will further assist its member companies to set up in the United States and will acquire American companies as the fastest way to obtain a nationwide marketing force to sell members' software products.

This is one important element in the revised plan for Insac after the hiving-off last month of its viewdata operations into a separate company. The American move will be followed by similar approaches in the Far East and the Middle East.

Insac's current problems include the future role of Logica, whose managing director, Mr Len Taylor, recently resigned from the Insac board; the prospect of further resignations and the poor financial results for 1978-79 reported by Computer Analysts & Programmers, an Insac founder-member.

Logica directors will meet NEB representatives within the next two weeks to discuss the company's future in relation to Insac. Mr Taylor's resignation was a personal decision and did not commit the company either to remain in or to withdraw from Insac, but it is no secret that Logica's prime interest in the NEB is its Nexos office-automation enterprise.

Further resignations from the Insac board are expected. Mr Neil Pearce, managing director of Insac Products, confirmed yesterday that Mr Peter Adams of SPL intended to withdraw, but the Insac head expected that another SPL director would take Mr Adams's place on the Insac board.

CAP reported a pre-tax profit of only £13,000 for 1978-79, compared with £1m for the previous year. One of three main reasons for this, Mr Alex d'Agapeyeff, the chairman, reported, was a long delay in obtaining a return from the company's large investment in MicroCobol (a microcomputer programming language) and other "new technology" products. Insac has supported this micro-based development.

Mr d'Agapeyeff admits that he underestimated the time needed by manufacturers to "box" the microcomputer suitably for retail sale; the software improvements needed to match the power of the latest micros and "the closeness of our competition". Hence investment had risen to £2.5m.

But the future prospects remain good and the CAP chairman speaks of "the opportunity to franchise MicroCobol and its associated products on a worldwide basis in the manner of a software Coca-Cola".

Insac was set up by the NEB in June 1977 to invest in the development of software products by member-companies (in all of which the NEB holds shares) and assist in their export. Under Mr John Pearce, managing director, the company moved rapidly into the new field of viewdata systems.

When Insac Viewdata was formed as a separate company in November, Mr Pearce moved across to become its first managing director. Mr Neil Pearce (no relation), Insac director of operations, became managing director of Insac Products with the task of pursuing Insac's original objectives.

Despite the doubts of Mr Taylor and possibly others that these objectives are now valid, Mr Neil Pearce is adamant that the original concept works. Insac investments have assisted members' software developments, he said yesterday, but it was true that Insac demanded in return a fair amount of time and effort from its board members.

New deputy chief for Monopolies Commission

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which will investigate anti-competitive practices when the Competition Bill becomes law early next year, has a new deputy chairman, Mr Jeremy Hardie.

Yesterday Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, announced that Mr Hardie, a partner at Dixon Wilson and Co, chartered accountants, and a member of the commission since 1976, will become deputy chairman on New Year's Day. He replaces Mr Tony Richards, a member of the Stock Exchange.

Like Mr Richards and Sir Max Brown, the other deputy chairman, Mr Hardie will serve part-time. The appointment is for three years.

Mr Nott also announced three-year reappointments of four commission members: Mr John Eccles; Mr Robert Marshall; Mr John Sadler and Miss Rita Stephen.

Although Mr Hardie, who is 41 and also a deputy chairman of the National Provident Institution, is expected to be a strong influence at the commission, Mr Nott has yet to announce his detailed plans for strengthening the commission for its task under the Competition Bill.

Earlier this year Mr Nott said that he was considering appointing one or possibly two full-time deputy chairmen to the commission. Two could still be appointed eventually because the commission's establishment allows for three deputy chairmen and Sir Max Brown's appointment runs out in June 1981.

Some industrialists have been approached to take on a full-time job but so far without result, it is understood. The only other full-time membership post at the commission is that of Mr John Le Quesne, the chairman, who is a lawyer.

But the commission's secretariat is already being strengthened, largely by specialists, in preparation for the commission's new task.

The commission's regular members will remain at 24 although up to 27 members could be appointed. Work under the new competition legislation faces two questions.

One is how quickly the commission can adapt from taking several years to produce sector reports to being administered more like the Price Commission.

The Price Commission had to produce investigations of companies within three months. The Monopolies Commission has been committed by Mr Nott to producing reports quickly.

When Mr Nott asks the commission to investigate a public sector body like a nationalized industry, the inquiry will have to be completed within six months, although a three-month extension is possible.

The commission is expected to get three to four of these references each year. The Government has already announced that the first will be into the south-east commuter services of British Rail.

The commission was also recently asked to investigate some Post Office letter services and a quick report is expected although the action was taken by the Government under earlier legislation.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, is also expected to be making competition references to the commission under the new competition laws which would normally involve a single company. Mr Borrie may make 20 or 30 preliminary investigations of practices that appear to distort competition. He could take up to three months to complete his inquiries.

He is empowered to accept undertakings from companies, so it remains to be seen how many of his inquiries result in a reference to the commission for full investigation. Because the commission would have the results of the director general's investigations, it would normally be expected to report well within six months.

The other question facing the commission is how it will adapt to developing what will amount to competition case law. The Government turned its back on legislating against specific practices — unlike America — in favour of a more flexible approach.

Interpreting the principles of the Competition Bill, which have already led to tortuous discussions at the director general's office, could be a challenge to the commission's accustomed methods of dealing with work.

Previously the commission usually empanelled the requisite number of commission members and made no concerted attempt to bring all the commission together regularly to formulate common approaches on points of principle thrown up by successive investigations.

Mr Jeremy Hardie: expected to be strong influence.

Growth in imports of chemicals to Britain may be slowing down

By Our Industrial Staff

Chemical imports during the first nine months of this year were about 18 per cent up by volume on the same period in 1978. However, there are now signs that the rapid growth in imports over the last two years may be slowing down.

The level of imports in the third quarter was not significantly greater than the average for the first two quarters, according to figures published in *Trade and Industry*.

The volume of chemical exports during the first nine months of 1979 was about 3 per cent higher than last year, and a similar, modest growth is expected for the whole year.

International trade features strongly in the chemicals industry, with more than 42 per cent of sales overseas. In 1978, it recorded a trade surplus of £1,402m. In the decade to 1978, the growth rate for exports was 21.5 per cent, outstripping that for imports by 0.5 per cent.

Although the latest set of government figures suggests a further improvement in Britain's chemicals trade balance, export prices have risen by about 18 per cent over the past 12 months. Import prices have not been rising so fast, which will make them increasingly competitive in the United Kingdom market.

Overall, chemicals industry output in the first nine months was about 3 per cent higher than in the same period of 1978. However, there are signs that the present buoyancy will not last. Demand is beginning to weaken.

That buoyancy may reflect a high level of stockbuilding aimed at preempting further price rises or insuring against disruption of supplies.

Organics, pigments and dyestuffs, and fertilizers have shown above-average growth so far this year. Among the poorer performers have been the pharmaceuticals and synthetic resins industries.

Meanwhile, a confidential study commissioned by the Scottish Office has concluded that further opportunities exist in Scotland for the manufacture of downstream products derived from petrochemicals.

The report, by Trichem Consultants, says that at best only one new petrochemical complex is viable in Scotland before 1990, apart from the ethylene cracker being built by Esso at Mossmorran, Fife.

Fed statistics highlight importance of Britain to American banking

The volume of assets and liabilities of major foreign branches of United States banks rose sharply in the third quarter of this year. New statistics released by the Federal Reserve Board underline the significance of Britain for American banking.

The figures show that total liabilities by overseas United States bank branches rose by $24,408m in the three months to the end of September to total $281,585m (about £125,700m). This represents a gain over the previous 12 months of $56,557m.

Total assets at the end of the third quarter were $282,376m, compared with $260,527m at the end of June and $226,534m at the end of September 1978.

The United Kingdom, according to the figures, is by far the most important foreign asset and liability centre for the overseas branches of American banks. On the liabilities side the United States branches had British claims at the end of September of $49,479m, while the assets total for the United Kingdom stood at $48,101m.

The figures do not shed light on United States banking relationships with Iran, as all dealings with Iran are placed together with those of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As a group, these Middle East oil producers are major United States banking clients, with the American bank branches having liabilities in this area at the end of September, 1979, of $22,844m and assets of $8,322m.

The figures only partly reveal the degree to which United States banks are involved in international finance. More comprehensive information covering the period to mid-1979, and including the maturity structure of outstanding United States bank claims on foreigners, should be released by the Fed in the near future.

Gold price falls from $518 peak

By Caroline Atkinson

Gold jumped to new record prices yesterday morning, but then dropped back. It finished the day at $510 an ounce in London, down a single dollar from Thursday's record close. The bullion market was busy in contrast to the quiet post-Christmas foreign exchanges.

Gold rose to $515 an ounce at the morning fix, continuing its overnight rise in the Far East. It peaked at about $518 in the late morning and then fell sharply after the opening of the New York markets.

Selling by some American trading houses on behalf of many small investors drove the price down to $504, before it recovered at the close. Dealers expect the market to pause for breath now that the $500 an ounce level has been breached.

The dollar firmed slightly from Thursday's lows against most European currencies, gaining 0.2 points on its effective tradeweighted index. Markets are not expected to show much movement until after the new year.

Directors fear impact of new worker rights

By Patricia Tisdall

Company directors are worried about a government proposal which would force them to take account of employees' interests as well as those of shareholders. The Institute of Directors says that the proposal, incorporated in the Companies Bill, could create a conflict of interest between the directors of a subsidiary company and those of its parent organization. They are also worried that the clause will prove harmful to creditors.

In a letter to Mr Reginald Eyre, Parliamentary Under Secretary of Trade, the IOD says the directors of a wholly-owned subsidiary who receive instructions to wind up the operation from the parent board would be placed in a difficult position.

The instruction may be in the interests of the employees of the group as a whole, but to the disadvantage of the subsidiary's employees. Similar conflicts could arise where the subsidiary's directors are told to repay loans or to pay dividends to the parent company.

There is a solution within the present clause but the institute says it is clumsy and bureaucratic. It believes the clause will introduce "inflexibility and red tape" into transactions within a group because attention is focussed on the individual company, not the group as a whole.

A more general objection is that the clause extends a new and special recognition in law to employees, although in practice they are just one of a number of groups who otherwise relate to each other on the basis of the law of contract.

The most important other category listed by the institute is that of crediters. Creditors were an identifiable interest group which company law had traditionally sought to protect. The institute maintains: "Their interests ought to have the same regard from directors as those of employees".

The directors' views have come too late for the committee stage discussions of the Bill. However, members told Mr Eyre, they hoped their comments would be taken into account at the report stage.

China to attract foreign capital by floating shares

From Jo McBride
Hongkong, Dec 28

China is to float shares to attract foreign capital for developing its Fujian province in the south-west of the country, the New China News Agency reports. The shares, expected to be floated in 1980 to finance foreign trade, will be issued to overseas Chinese living in south east Asia.

The agency reported that the announcement had been made at a recent provincial meeting.

The Fujian Investment Corporation was formed early this year to boost exports, promote joint ventures with foreign businessmen and handle distribution of goods within the province.

The amount of capital the corporation holds has never been disclosed, and the news report gave no details of the share flotation.

While the sketchy report raises many questions, it fits well into what is already known of the enterprise's plans.

Overseas Chinese investment corporations were active in several provinces until the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

When Fujian and Guangdong provinces were allowed to reactivate such schemes in May, the Fujian corporation was specifically empowered to "issue stocks and handle investments from overseas Chinese and Hongkong and Macao compatriots".

Such "fraternal" investments are not seen as essentially undermining the communist principle of "self-reliance".

In June *Wen Wei Po*—the Hongkong newspaper generally thought to reflect Peking's views—suggested that the Guangdong corporation might one day issue something like redeemable preference shares valid for five, eight or 12 years, with 12-year paper yielding 8 per cent.

The China News Agency also reported a probable minimum — but not a fixed maximum — yield of 8 per cent on 12-year paper possible issued to finance Fujian development.

Before dividend payments ceased abruptly in January 1967, the former provincial investment corporations routinely paid a fixed divided of 8 per cent on shares with a stated value of 20 Renminbi (about £16). Shares were bought half in Chinese and half in foreign currency but dividends were paid entirely in foreign currency.

Total overseas Chinese investment in these corporations at the time they were closed down is estimated to have been well over $40m (£18m).

The apparent loss of this sum by investors is not necessarily a disincentive to future investments, to which the overseas Chinese' affection for the motherland is a considerable spur.

Oil groups put up petrol prices

Continued from page 1

Mobil has increased its wholesale prices by 3p; this will probably rise to 4p at the retail pumps to allow for the Saudi Arabian increase and the North Sea price rises in November.

The cheapest four-star petrol is now likely to be about 117p a gallon and average about 119p, but these prices may hold for less than a fortnight.

All United Kingdom petrol groups are waiting to see how far the state-owned British National Oil Corporation will raise its prices for North Sea crude. North Sea oil now fulfils more than half of domestic requirements and the size of the rise will be crucial to further increases in petrol prices.

North Sea prices are likely to follow the trend set by Libya, Nigeria and Algeria, the north African producers of similar quality oil, which have already increased their prices to $30 a barrel. The corporation will not fix its price until the trend of all the post-Caracas increases has been established, but the rise will take effect from January 1.

When all the increases are added together four-star is likely to go up by a further 3p or 4p a gallon, making a total of about 8p.

REVISED OPEC PRICES

The following are prices announced by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries for 1980.

$ per barrel (barrel=35 gallons)	
Saudi Arabia	24.00
Iraq	26.00
Iran	28.50
Kuwait	†
United Arab Emirates	27.56
Algeria	30.00
Libya	30.00
Nigeria	30.00
Indonesia	25.45 to 30.75 (range)
Venezuela	28.00
Ecuador	†
Gabon	†
Qatar	27.42

† Price change still to be announced.

PRICE CHANGES

...vl	$1¼ to $14¼
	27c to 955c
	12p to 128p
...x	40p to 410p
...right	8p to 96p
Peko Wallsend	30p to 425p
Pres Steyn	54½ to $33½
Rand Mine Prop	20p to 225p
Selection Tst	32p to 578p
Zambia Copper	3p to 36p
	$1 5 16 to $11⅜
	30c to 370c
	45c to 635c
	7p to 43p
	50c to 310c
Randfontein	$5⅞ to $52
Sungei Besi	25p to 225p
Tharsis Sulphur	25p to 225p
Venterpost	50c to 885c
Western Areas	53c to 570c

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
	2.05	1.99
	29.25	27.25
	67.25	63.75
	2.67	2.60
	12.39	11.84
	8.62	8.22
	9.28	8.88
	4.02	3.80
	98.00	93.00
	11.42	10.82
	1855.00	1770.00
	560.00	535.00
Gld	4.43	4.20
Norway Kr	11.45	10.95
Portugal Esc	115.00	110.00
South Africa Rd	1.80	1.67
Spain Pta	154.00	147.00
Sweden Kr	9.60	9.20
Switzerland Fr	3.72	3.50
USA $	2.28	2.22
Yugoslavia Dnr	52.00	48.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Discount scheme has cut profit margins unacceptably, retailers say

Matched dealing for cigarettes stubbed out

Matched dealing discounts on cigarettes, which at their peak were removing 6p from a packet of 20, will be phased out by the end of this month after individual agreements between manufacturers and the Retail Confectioners and Tobacconists Association (RCTA).

Matched dealing was used by manufacturers to offer discounts if the retailer matched the discount out of his own profit.

Mr Harry Tipple, president of the RCTA, said that with cigarettes yielding only a 10 per cent margin to retailers—between 5p and 6p on every 20—the shared discounting had been cutting unacceptably into the retail margins.

This marketing tool, a key in the once bitter price war for the king-size market, was not welcomed at first by many RCTA members, according to Mr Tipple. Some tobacconists saw sales rise at first but, as with trading stamps, once most outlets were using matched dealing, sales patterns tended to settle down as before and the individual tobacconist found reduced advantages in the system.

Matched dealings first appeared in 1976 but took off in mid-1977 when Imperial Group, which controls W. D. and H. O. Wills and John Player, used the system to boost its share of the king-size market. Although Imperial was the overall cigarette market leader it had only about 35 per cent of the king-size sector in 1977. By early 1978 its share had jumped to 50 per cent.

This share has fallen to just under 45 per cent after British American Tobacco entered the British market in 1978 with its king-size State Express 555 brand.

Matched dealing, which had started off with equally shared 2p cuts on 20 packs, rose to as much as a shared 6p cut although BATs chose low launch prices as its main marketing route and not matched deals.

The king-size sector is still growing and it may rise to 80 per cent of the cigarette market from its present 63 per cent, but the intense price war has been showing signs of petering out.

But "flash packs"—so called because of wrapper messages indicating a manufacturer's discount offer—have been reappearing, sometimes as "special price" packs.

Wills's Embassy Filter, an Imperial brand, still offers coupons and has maintained its 6 per cent market share. But the 30 per cent duty, which coupons now carry under an end-product taxation system, probably means coupons are unlikely to be the next big marketing tool.

But the Government is likely to win tighter cigarette advertising restrictions from the industry by the end of March, when the voluntary agreement on tobacco promotion is due for renewal.

Derek Harris

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Bouquet of the decade

About half the population of Britain invest through the Department of National Savings. It is a big responsibility looking after the money of people who are among the least financially knowledgeable—children, the elderly and the less well off.

At the beginning of this decade the Department of National Savings was falling down on this job. There was much scathing criticism of governments in the past for the gigantic "con trick" being played on the financially naive.

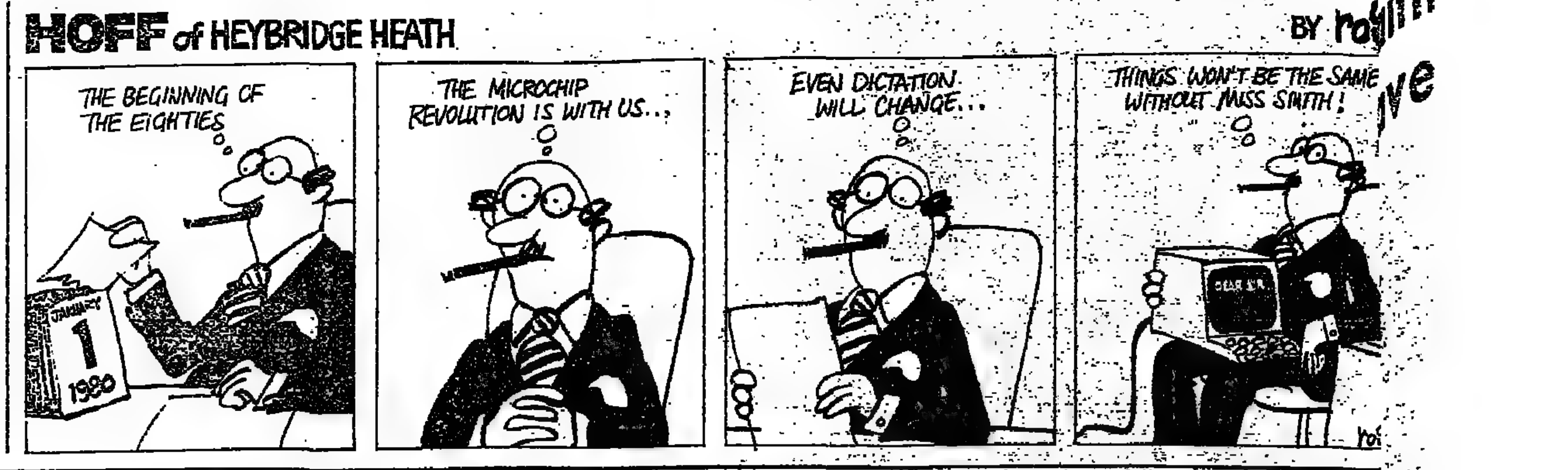
In 1970 the interest on the National Savings Bank ordinary account was the same 2½ per cent that it had been when the old Post Office Savings Bank (as it was then) first opened its doors in 1861. In fact, about all that could be said in favour of National Savings offerings was that they could be bought at some 22,000 post offices up and down the country and they happened to be open on Saturdays.

But this decade has brought a transformation. National Savings Bank investment accounts are the scourge of the building society movement, with the attractive and competitive rates they offer. The Savings Certificates are issued and withdrawn at a commendable speed to ensure that the returns remain competitive.

No other savings institution in the country can match the index-linked Save-As-You-Earn savings scheme or the index-linked Retirement Issue of Savings Certificates.

As to Premium Savings Bonds, they were around in 1970 but now have a more attractive prize structure and I have high hopes that by the end of the nineties there will be football pool-sized wins.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Pensions

Divorce: who gets the widow's mite?

When couples divorce they are usually too busy arguing about the more tangible spoils of marriage such as the house, the car or the furniture to concern themselves about pension rights when the breadwinner dies.

Strictly speaking divorced wives lose their rights to their ex-husbands' widow's pension. But they may be able to lay claim to other discretionary payments made by pension schemes under the broader definition of "dependants".

Most of the working population is now in an earnings related pension scheme—either through the state pension fund or an occupational scheme. The rights, or rather the lack of rights, of divorced wives to widows' pensions is something that has exercised the minds of the legal profession.

It is not a problem that should arise with a relatively young divorcee who can work and build up her own entitlement. But an older wife, say one in her fifties, who has never worked and is, after divorce, living on maintenance payments is clearly disadvantaged should her ex-husband die. Even if he has not remarried she will not be able to claim the widow's pension as of right.

Not so long ago our own Occupational Pensions Board suggested that the courts be given powers to allocate pension benefits after divorce. But in its report *Family property: family provision on death* the Law Commission decided that it would be "too great a burden to expose the trustees of a pension fund who can confidently be expected to act conscientiously, to the scrutiny of the court".

But with the high and rising divorce rate and greater recognition of mistresses' financial rights, pension fund trustees might well crave some guidance. None more so than the trustees of one pension fund who found, on the demise of their company's disabled liftman (who had lost a leg in the war), that one wife and two mistresses were claiming to be his dependants.

The precise rules on widow's pensions vary from scheme to scheme. Many funds now call it a widow's and dependants' pension, or simply a dependants' pension. The trustees then do have some discretion as to who gets it.

There is, however, one proviso. The *in situ* widow, whether she is the first or the fifth wife and whether she was married to the husband for one *year or fifty, must, under the* pension rules, receive benefits at least as good as she would get under the earnings related state equivalent.

Since many occupational schemes provide rather better benefits it follows that an ex-wife, or anyone else who can convince the trustees of their need, might be able to qualify for part of the extra slice of the widow's pension.

There will probably be some lump sum payments to be made at the discretion of the trustees. If a man dies before retirement there may be a sum equivalent to three or four times his salary. Or the fund may repay part or all his own contributions. Normally this would go to the man's widow and family, but anyone who is a dependant may be considered a suitable recipient by the trustees.

An ex-wife cannot, however, sue the trustees for the money in the same way she can sue her dead husband's estate for support. Discretionary payments by pension funds do not come within the scope of the inheritance laws. It is not something a husband can give away in his will. By the same token he can only express a wish to the trustees about where he would like the money to go.

It must be difficult for trustees to sort out the conflicting claims of various wives. They have a duty to pay some attention to what the husband felt about it, but no obligation to carry out his wishes.

In several divorce cases the wife's future loss of her widow's pension was considered by the court to be serious financial hardship and the husband was refused a decree until he made alternative arrangements to provide for his wife should he die before her.

Frequently, when faced with an aging wife, the courts will demand that the husband take out some kind of deferred annuity to take the place of his widow's pension. But if he himself is approaching retirement age this can be expensive. And if she happens to *die before* him all the money is lost.

Michael Williams

Insurance

Time for a rethink

From next Tuesday anyone who buys certain types of life insurance will have a statutory right* to withdraw within a limited period—and to obtain a *full* refund of the whole of the first premium.

The idea has taken a long time to come to fruition. It was recommended in the Hilary Scott committee's report on unit-linked life assurance in 1973, and was incorporated in The Insurance Companies Act 1974, sections 65-67.

The first proposals for "cooling-off" were made in 1975 when the Department of Trade envisaged a lengthy and complicated statutory notice which would provide detailed information to each policy-holder about his policy—but which might not be read.

Instead, it was finally agreed *that the notices to be sent* by life offices direct to policy-holders (not by way of brokers or other introducers of the business) should be sharp and clear, telling them about the limitations of the policy and giving them the right to cancel.

To preserve good relations, the great majority of life offices have been prepared to cancel policies (and make a full refund of premium) if policy-holders wanted to get out at the outset.

Except for the fringe companies not falling into that category, the cooling-off regulations are not really giving a buyer of insurance much that he did not have before.

There are, however, two important points. First, everybody taking a policy will be told that he can cancel, without loss, if he wishes to do so.

Secondly, the statutory notice gives helpful advice—not only about taking out the policy but also about making it paid up or surrendering. A salesman is unlikely to put the points so clearly—or in writing.

If the new regulations stop over-selling they will have achieved much. Will a salesman be quite so aggressive if he knows that his client will be sent a notice explaining the policy and saying how it can be cancelled straight away?

Certainly, it is much better for *everybody* for a policy never to be sold than to be wrongly sold and then have to be cancelled.

For practical reasons, the cooling-off regulations do not apply to all policies. Single premium policies are excluded. Otherwise, somebody could buy a *unit-linked contract and, if* the units fell in price, he could cancel and buy another—getting more units allocated for his money.

Also, if an annuity was bought and annuity yields then improved (due to higher market rates of interest), cancellation and replacement, on better terms, could take place. That would be to the disadvantage of the life office—and, ultimately, other policy—holders.

The new regulations do not apply to industrial ("home service"—typified by the man from the Pru') life assurance.

If you insure the life of somebody else (other than your spouse), for whatever reason, you will not be able to cancel. And nor can you cancel a policy "made in compliance with or as an integral part of a personal credit scheme".

It looks as though that applies to polices arranged to repay house purchase loans; but some big building societies do not agree since they would allow a borrower to switch over to a "repayment" mortgage.

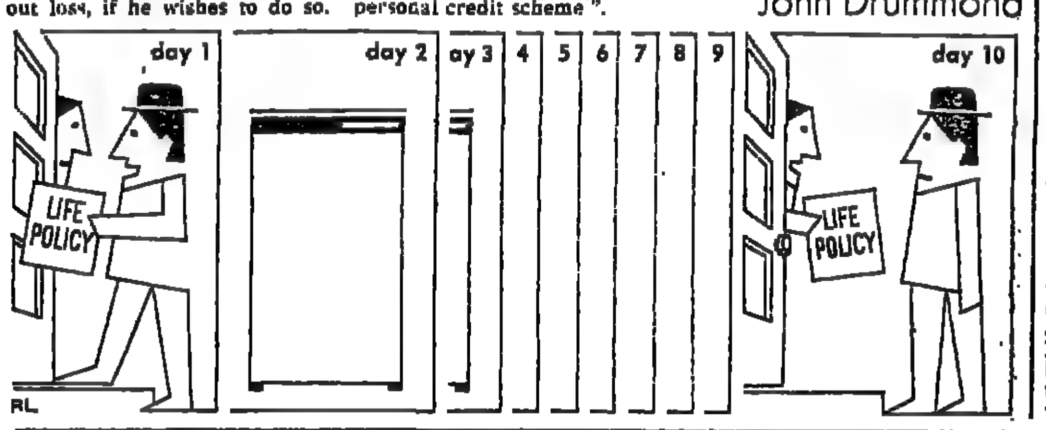
If somebody wants to cancel, he or she can put the notice of cancellation in the post within 10 days of receiving the statutory notice from the life office, or within one day of knowing that the contract is in force and the first premium has been paid—whichever is later.

Unfortunately, life offices are not adopting the same approach. Some collect a cheque or direct debit authority with the completed proposal form—and send the notice straight away, giving you 10 days from receipt of the *notice. Others wait until the* underwriting process has been completed (including, where necessary, a medical examiner's report) before sending an acceptance letter and notice for payment. In the latter case, as in the past, if you do not want to go ahead you simply do not send the cheque.

If you send off your cancellation form knowing that the premium has been paid, how do you know *when* the premium has been paid? Some might argue (although probably with little success) that they did not *know* until they received their bank statement—weeks later.

* *The Insurance Companies (Notice of Long-term Policy) Regulations* 1978, made under the Insurance Companies Act 1974.

John Drummond



Diary of a 1979 saver

Was it a bad year? Interest rates soared, mortgages cost more, but income tax fell and exchange controls vanished

January
With snow and strikes on the way, beginning of 1979 had little to recommend it. Minimum lending rate was 12.5 per cent and the mortgage interest rate had just risen to an uncomfortable 11.75 per cent. Gold was a mere $222 an ounce and the stock market, measured by the *FT* industrial ordinary index, stood at 473.

On January 1 interest on the National Savings Bank investment account was raised to 12 per cent. Lloyds Bank entered the home loan market with £20m set aside for larger loans, while in the Channel Islands the Trustee Savings Bank began offering mortgages too.

Changed legislation a few months earlier on the personal pension plan front produced a flurry of open market options from a wide range of life offices. Abbey launched its Gilt and Fixed Interest trust.

February
Interest rates were on the move—upwards. The first of many *changes in MLR was announced.* It rose to 14 per cent and in its wake interest on certificates of tax deposits, those useful saving devices for prudent taxpayers, rose from 13 per cent to 14 per cent.

The 18th issue of National Savings Certificates, with the 8.45 per cent tax free return sold with gusto. The market was rising and the new unit trusts kept coming: Intel's Pacific Fund, Hill Samuel's General Exempt and the first of many Recovery and special situation funds, Craigmount's Recovery.

March
It was the International Year of the Child; life assurance companies were waiting with investment packages designed to give non-taxpaying kids all the advantages of 17½ per cent life assurance tax relief next month. Sounded like a good idea—but the Inland Revenue got there first. It let it be known that children of "tender" (sic) years cannot take out the policies and get the tax relief.

The Canadians were *out* in force this month. Cannon Assurance, once part of Bernie Cornfeld's ill-fated Investors Overseas Group, was sold to Inland Financial, subsidiary of the Canadian Cascade organization; Royal Bank of Canada bought the Plymouth-based consumer credit company, Western Trust and Savings. Guardian Royal Exchange moved into the linked life business with its Grella contracts and National Westminster went offshore with High Income and Equity funds. The Canadian connexion appeared again with Craigmount's Canadian unit trust.

April
Mr Callaghan decided to go to the country and so all we got was a token Budget from Chancellor Healey. Few new savings products were launched as people waited on political events. But there were important underlying developments. Life assurance premiums became payable net of tax relief at 17½ per cent. The Superannuation Funds Office issued memorandum 58 which opened the door for an avalanche of self-administered pension plans later in the year. And the Price Commission gave the thumbs down to changes in the unit trust charges. MLR went down to 12 per cent.

May
Electioneering—and pondering the outcome—made for a quiet month for savers. More and more conventional life assurance companies moved into the unit-linked field, notably London Life, one of the oldest established mutuals. Other entrants were MGM Assurance and London Aberdeen and Northern Mutual. Tower produced its first unit trust, an Income and Growth fund, Schroder a Smaller Companies fund and Stratton a Smaller Companies Exempt.

June
The Tories Budget cut basic rate tax from 33 to 30 per cent, reduced the top rate from 73 per cent to 60 per cent but increased VAT to 15 per cent and MLR to 14 per cent.

There was more freedom on the overseas front however: exchange control relaxations meant that £100,000 could now be spent on a holiday home abroad and that Krugerrand could be bought freely.

M & G launched its North American Recovery fund, Craigmount its Gilt fund and Perpetual its Income trust. Gartmore's Moneybuilder Plan opened the way for modest savers.

July
Mr Leonard Williams, recently appointed chairman of the Building Societies Association, had a foretaste of problems caused by high interest rates with funds too low to meet high mortgage demand. The societies raised the interest rate from 8 per cent to 8.75 per cent tax paid.

Newcomer *Skandia Life,* offshoot of Swedish insurer run by ex-Abbey Life men, got off the ground. The Trustee Savings Bank breathed fresh air into the household and house contents insurance market with a new, simplified policy. New funds were Hill Samuel's Special Situations and Quilter's Quadrant International fund. Solar Life launched a new distribution fund and Abbey National introduced its flexible Open Bond-share scheme.

August
Long-awaited legislation enacted covering the establishment and operation of credit unions where a common bond must unite the members. Bradford & Bingley building society provided a lump sum facility to its Linkplan building society insurance-linked scheme, while the Alliance tied up with Family Assurance in a similar arrangement.

September
The mighty Halifax at last succumbed and announced it would charge differential mortgage interest rates on larger loans. Unit trust group Save and Prosper dabbled a tentative toe in the home loan market too. Interest on National Savings Bank investment account rose to 12.5 per cent. On the fund scene, Clive Discount and Hambros Bank joined to launch an offshore gilt fund for high rate taxpayers; Fielding management company introduced an International fund.

October
Exchange controls vanished into thin air and the savings industry responded to the mood of excitement with new ideas in other areas. Two-year income bonds, soon followed by one-year bonds, hit the market from Skandia Life and Merchant Investors. Albany Life introduced a variable premium policy tied to performance. New Zealand Insurance's Universal bond was a new package split among six different investment groups. And Anglia Hastings and Thanet building society raised £20m in the City for its top-of-the-market loans. Standard Life, the Scottish insurance giant, finally entered the unit-linked market.

November
The crunch came with a crisis level of MLR of 17 per cent provoking an immediate response from the building societies. Their consequential per cent mortgage interest rate of per cent comes into effect January 1. National Savings were given a fillip: the minimum investment for index-linked Retirement certificates went up from £700 to £1,200.

The Trustee Savings Bank severed their state connexion and their savings accounts lost their tax free status. The TSB also entered the mortgage market on a national scale. The new freedom to invest overseas meant that both Save and Prosper and GT Management were able to offer international bond funds. Barrington and National Westminster both launched Smaller Companies funds and Gartmore a Special Situations trust.

December
Interest on National Savings Bank investment account rose to 15 per cent on December 1, the same as the gross equivalent of building societies' 10 per cent tax paid rate which came into effect on the same day. British Savings Bonds, however, received the *coup de grace.*

Bad news came from M & G, which ran into trouble with the tax man and had to be bailed effectively out by merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson. But there was good news too for Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association. Unit trust charges, fixed in 1958, were freed from government control. Gold ended the year at over $500 an ounce.

Margaret Stone

Investor's year

Dominating influence of oil and Iran

No doubt about it: one man dominated the investor's year and he did so simply by failing. He was—and in name still is—Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr, Emperor of *Iran.*

We knew in our waters as the year began that our ramshackle United Kingdom economy would soon pass its peak of activity and take company profits down with it. But we did not know when, or how far or fast, the descent would be.

However, the toppling of the Shah and the twisting of the Opec oil screw ensured a bleak international climate against which it was useless for the United Kingdom to struggle. World inflation went up, interest rates around the globe rose and the dollar went down. It looked like 1974-75 all over again.

So we worried as we went into 1979 when the *FT* index was 473. While the Shah tottered the best people (such as the London Business School, brokers Wood Mackenzie and Phillips & Drew) fretted about rising inflation, falling consumption and slower growth.

But soon the worrying gave *way to chuckling. Politics* temporarily took over the stock market. The previous autumn it looked as if Labour had an odds-on chance of victory in a general election. With great skill, the Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey had got a roaring consumer spending boom under way and we also now know, but did not then appreciate, a public expenditure spree as well.

It was all done under the cloak of a becoming monetarism and, as public opinion polls showed the two big parties pegging level, Tory nerves frayed.

The about-turn was sudden. With victory in sight Labour embraced defeat through an incomes policy with increases of only 5 per cent. Down went Labour in the opinion polls as out on strike and into pickets went lorry drivers, hospital workers, dustmen and school caretakers.

The key month was March. After this explosion of exasperation in the public sector (and the worst winter weather for 15 years) the Government had to let its devolution legislation lapse.

Scotland had said yes to devolution so faintly that the devolution Bill could not be activated. Scottish nationalists were furious and the Government lost a key Commons motion by one vote.

As the Tories confirmed their *opinion poll lead, investors* began to relish the prospect of a bonfire of dividend and price controls, as well as an attack on those taxes identified with socialism. But, however unwittingly, investors had entered a dream world. They were sheltered from reality by a welter of statistics dismissed as useless thanks to the winter weather and the strikes.

Symbolically, the *FT* index peaked on May 4, the morrow of the Tory election victory, at 558.6.

As far as blue chips went, it was a stockmarket, not a market in stocks. If you had sold **Courtaulds** at 116p on May 4, you would have done so at only 6p a share under the year's high. Anyone who kissed **Marks & Spencer** goodbye then at 129p would have conceded a mere 4p a share; the seller of **Tesco** got it right, save for 1p, at May 4's 81p; and the unloader of **ICI** would have got his timing right on the button at a price of 415p, exactly the year's peak.

City men rubbed their hands and waited eagerly for fat dividends from Shell, BP and a host of others. Gilt-edged buyers drummed their fingers for big cuts in government spending, aware that only a glut of gilts to pay for this spending had *kept prices so low.*

The awakening from his Tory slumberland was slow, but even so uncomfortable. Big brokers fattened by institutional rather than private client business failed to realize just how much of the money behind a Tory win was gambling rather than investment cash.

Nor were City men keen on admitting the extent of their disillusion. Investors rely on each other to force up share prices and they know they must stick together to keep them up. But, if prices are high and they fear a fall, they radiate cheer—and if necessary elbow fellow investors aside to sell. The better brokers, of course, manage to tiptoe to the exit while no one else is looking.

A particularly bleak landmark was put into place in mid-June. Minimum lending rate soared to 14 per cent to give the Government's first indication that money would be priced as high as need be to squeeze inflated demand out of the system. At a stroke the whole interest rate structure on which the alleged "cheapness" of shares was based fell apart.

This leap in MLR was part of the monetarism of the new Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe. He hoped to control inflation and cut taxes by £1,000m by making money dear and hoisting VAT to 15 per cent. But the City had little faith in this old Chancellorial device of setting monetary and fiscal policy at odds.

The view gained ground that Mr Healey had left the economy over-extended and that the new Government would have its work cut out simply to rein ballooning public sector spending, let alone cut it. But few things in the stock market go up or down in a straight line.

In July Sir Geoffrey set dividends free and up jumped the index from 455 to 480. Nor did the index collapse at once as the series of two-day engineering strikes got under way in August.

But by October shares were sliding and they were given a strong shove by the ending of exchange controls. That killed the "weight of money waiting to go into shares" argument at a stroke. Now institutions could invest abroad.

MLR at 17 per cent sent the index to a November low of 405.3 and it stayed weak as the year ended where it began, in Iran, where the mobs stormed the United States embassy. The index bowed out at 417.8.

Among the losers to slip quietly out of the old year were **Vickers** at 140p, just about the 1979 low; **Tube Investments** at 254p, right on the year's bottom; and **Distillers** which sank to 199p, also the year's low.

So it was a bad year for shares in general, especially engineers with a lot of labour, money tied up in expensive stocks and exporting in the teeth of a strong pound. Obviously, it was a good year for oils and gold shares but few investors in these did better than bullion—up 120 per cent—and oil, which on average has more than doubled.

Taken in total, shares in the table reflect not only recession but investors' fears for the health of the world economy and its currencies. These fears could be overdone.

PW

MAIN CHANGES OF THE YEAR

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change†	Comment
		Rises*		
300p	44p	Brown & Jackson*	332 to 210p	Acquisitions
76p	27p	Carless Capel	171 to 75p	Oil
167p	29½p	Cawoods	103 to 152p	Oil
156p	60p	Gibbons, Dudley	150 to 150p	Steetley bid
398p	124p	LASMO	164 to 335p	Oil
89p	27p	MFI	172 to 74p	Discounting
49p	13p	Premier Consol	222 to 41p	Oil
800p	210p	Oil Explor	210 to 660p	Oil; Lasmo bid
428p	197p	Ultramar	105 to 416p	Oil
197p	82p	Burmah	105 to 160p	Oil
		Falls*		
90p	37p	Acrow A	54 to 37p	Engineering
141p	47p	Bridon	46 to 55p	Figs disappointed
85p	27p	BSR	63 to 30p	Weak dollar
36½p	18p	Carrington Viy	43 to 18p	Textiles weak
133p	55½p	Coral Leis	39 to 64p	Casinos; litigation
153p	70p	Gestetner A	41 to 81p	Strong pound
222p	107p	Hoover A	41 to 129p	Foreign competition
67p	33p	Johns & Firth B	40 to 40p	Steel
122p	67p	Renold	44 to 68p	Engineering
210p	103p	Vickers	44 to 107p	Engineering

* Companies with market capitalization around and above £20m only.
Source: Datastream International.
† Change from beginning of year.

Fixed interest investment

Why rates should fall by the summer

Christmas came early for the pundits this year. On November 15 to be precise. That was the day on which the Government decided to do its best to spoil everybody else's Christmas by raising short-term interest rates to an unprecedented level.

But for the pundits—once, that is, they had wiped a not inconsiderable amount of egg from their faces—it was nothing short of manna from Sir Geoffrey. Now they could launch into the eighties with the "safe" prediction that interest rates would fall.

To me that seems a most reasonable prediction. There is, it is true, a minority school of thought that argues that there is still an outside chance of everything going wrong—in which case, horror of horrors, interest rates might still have to climb in line with the rising rate of inflation.

But much as I dislike betting with the crowd, on this occasion at least I feel forced to go along with it.

That leaves three basic questions to deal with. When will rates fall, how far will they fall, and will short or longer term rates fall further? Quite honestly, attempting to predict the trend in interest rates with any degree of precision is a mug's game. But let me at least set out some of the considerations that should be shaping the pattern of interest rates.

Point number one is that since late October we have been living in a country free of exchange controls. The general implication of that ought to be that United Kingdom interest rates should in future be even more sensitive to movements in key international interest rates, especially dollar rates; and those, of course, are at present being determined against a highly uncertain world background.

That does not mean to say that the outlook for international interest rates is bearish. Indeed, there is a strong feeling that United States rates have either peaked or will peak early in the new year. Thereafter the trend should be steadily downwards as economic activity slows.

One hopes that potential upsets to such a scenario will not arise, but who would care to predict what 1980 will *not* bring? Further complications in the Middle East? Unexpected complications on the international banking front? A rash attempt in the United States to relax the monetary reins too early?

At home the situation facing the Government is not dissimilar to that facing the United States Administration—the need to keep trying to squeeze inflation out of the system.

The fact that the United Kingdom Government has no election to face should, of course, strengthen its resolution, albeit that this may mean keeping interest rate relatively high in the face of rising unemployment.

As the recession starts to bite, however, the recent strength of private sector loan demand should start to weaken, though it is true that so long as the rate of price inflation continues to increase—as it will through the first quarter of 1980—businesses need more and more money just to stand still.

Even so, we do seem to have here two factors that should make for lower United Kingdom interest rates some time during the first half of next year—lower overseas rates and abating private sector loan demand.

That brings us to the third vital factor—the Government's borrowing requirement and its money supply policy. Here there are some very delicate judgments to be reached over the coming weeks. It already seems fairly clear, however, that the position is going to be finely balanced.

In short, that means that the Government will want to start the next financial year with interest rates still looking attractive enough to tempt investors into buying large quantities of gilt edged stock.

On that basis I would expect the Government to do all in its power to prevent more than a very modest fall in interest rates ahead of the Budget—in part also because the Budget may have precious little else to offer other than a further fall in interest rates.

The Government's objective may not, however, prove all that easy to fulfil. The timing of cycles overseas and the domestic economy rarely coincide precisely, while markets tend to react much more quickly and violently than governments like. All this can make for complications.

My own view is that further accumulation of fixed interest instruments should be undertaken *as soon as possible,* with a good spread of short and long-term investments.

If interest rates fall too far in the first quarter, I would not be surprised to see a correction in the second quarter. But I doubt that rates will fall back to present levels unless the Government either loses its nerve or gets its sums very badly wrong.

John Whitmore

Credit cards

An unexpected gift

A seasonal gift is available for every Barclaycard holder. Because Barclaycard are changing from a system of charging interest on outstanding balances monthly in advance, to one of daily in arrears, they will not be entering interest charges at all on statements issued in January.

This generosity, forced upon them by the risk of double charging in the transition period, means that the Christmas shopping and sales bargains which were piled on the Barclaycard have the benefit of a month's extra credit holiday.

To take maximum advantage of the changeover (which works against card holders in the long run) pay only the minimum required on your December statement, the one due for payment sometime in January. But be prepared to clear the accumulated total balance of two months' transactions by the payment date in February shown on your January statement.

Otherwise you will be incurring on the total the new interest rate of 2.25 per cent a month, equivalent to an annual rate of 30.6 per cent.

ITED BY MARGARET STONE

ble or quits

Vaiting for Taveley

y sort of reader, hard- ice-cold, ruthless stock market duds, ntimental only to suc- flutters, this should in- a happy new year. and more people are work; fewer and fewer e on offer; unemploy- poised to rise through- t year; companies and kers will grow impe- great names will go

r, but surely, like a land in the making, the ions of the next bull are being laid. And in ld of stocks and shares idation is surer than in a sea of misery. sionals know that the is cyclical and always een. When business (as it is starting to do ompanies turn stocks otors into cash. They because they sell less cause they sell less, e less need to lock up a stocks. eople and companies less, money becomes ts price falls, like that other commodity. A government U-turns, ss and spending more. recovers, unit costs rofits soar, dividends and so it goes. that I cannot yet e exact timing of the ity upturn. At a guess, e early next summer. a gilt-edged boom ave come and gone. thing I am sure. Next inners could well be among this year's and few of this year's

leaders will head next year's pack.

So I have high hopes of Dunlop (taken in at 44p on November 17 and now 53p); of Westland (put in at 47½p on December 1 and now around 54p); and today of Staveley Industries, now around 156p, the lowest since 1979 began, but probably on its way back to the two-year high of 352p.

Like Dunlop and Westland, Staveley is a good company (temporarily) in the doghouse. That is why I like it.

Things began to go wrong last June. After seven years of non-stop triumph (when chief executive Dr Adolf Frankel took over in 1970 Staveley was almost broke) growth in the year to last March all but stopped. In the market there was disappointment, but not dismay.

That came a few weeks ago when we heard of half-time profits down, and nearly out, from £5.4m to £1.56m

I believe that Staveley, deep in electrical and mechanical engineering, salt production, foundry products and Salter weighing machines, is even now busy removing this blot by streamlining, pruning and management tightening.

With luck there will not be a general engineering strike next year. It all points to swift, solid recovery, though I concede that the market will not forgive Staveley at once. But a quick return to 352p is not needed for a handsome capital gain.

Peter Wainwright

ver bought at narket stall

ks ago my wife bought eces of old silver, in- an attractive set of ike forks from an ealer who had a stall al market. The dealer been sent to jail for a stolen goods. The rculating is that every- t he had on his stall n. My wife wishes to purchases to the local ation but I am con- at if she does so this ount to a confession an you advise? (R.M., ton).

d that your wife e items in all inno- ving no idea that they n, she is not guilty of ce. She could only be of handling stolen he had any reason for that they might be the time she acquired h suspicion might be she had bought them eedingly low price or l circumstances. t that she now has as to the origin of does not oblige her the police. She is keep the goods until claimed by the true at she is under no to seek him out. narket in question is ed by law" it could sale in market overt. case the true owner be able to recover her.

Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet.

received a letter secretary of my ib telling me that as iption had not been he year, he assumed ing up my member- act, I paid it in cash it became due and a provisional receipt. , I was able to find t him a photocopy. o apologize, explain- y an oversight it had credited to my What would have egal position if I had ble to produce my Suppose the club how could I prove asonable doubt that I t? Or is it up to the tary to prove that I aid it? (J. P. New- n Tyne).

t is merely evidence t but you were for- find it because in t lasts for six years. tly, a receipt should r the same length of you have any doubt accounting efficiency club secretary, it advisable to pay by future. A paid che- tes as proof of pay-

club sues you, the len of proof is on tisfy the judge that fact paid, since you there was a debt in ace. However, you do o satisfy him beyond doubt. Such a high proof only applies l cases. You need y the judge "on the probabilities" that paid. To this end, a desirable, but not provided you could oath that you paying and to

wedding present to ldaughter and my grandson-in-law of of capital transfer uary, 1979. My ques- ving done this, can I gift up to £2,000 in cial year 1979-1980 apital transfer tax? two quite separate G. W. P., Horsham.) emption for gifts eration of marriage annual exemption of

£2,000 are *both* available to anyone wanting to make tax-free gifts. So, in addition to this reader taking advantage of the grandparent's marriage gift exemption limit of £2,500 (the limit incidentally is increased to £5,000 for a parent and decreased to £1,000 for anyone else), he can add another £2,000 in the present tax year 1979-80.

Furthermore, if grandfather has not used up the £2,000 exemption for 1978-79 he can do so in the current year (the carry forward is available for one year only), thereby increasing the additional gift to £4,000.

After your informative reply to a letter about interest on money held by a solicitor, I am prompted to ask what is an estate-agent's obligation in respect of money collected as rent on behalf of a landlord?

For several years rents have been collected on my behalf by an estate agent as manager. Rents collected have, I presume, been retained in the estate-agent's account. They have not been paid into the appropriate property account. The sums involved have ranged from about £500 a year to nearly £1,000 a year so that over the years some useful interest could have accrued.

Could you also let me know what fees are customarily charged by estate-agents for property management and what services they normally include? (MS, Cardiff).

An estate agent is obliged to keep money collected on behalf of a client in a specially designated clients' account. This account may be either a current account or a deposit account. There is no obligation on the agent to place the money on deposit unless the client specifically requests this. However, if it is placed into a deposit account all interest which accrues must be paid over to the client. The interest cannot be retained by the agent without express agreement of the client.

However, where a solicitor or estate agent holds money as stakeholder—e.g. a deposit paid for house purchase—the interest earned belongs to the stakeholder and not to the vendor or the purchaser. Where the deposit is stated to be held by the estate agent as agent for the vendor, any interest earned belongs to the vendor.

With regard to property management, there are recommended scales of fees but these are likely to be abolished soon and all fees will be fixed "by arrangement". At present the recommended charge for the management of properties rented weekly is 10 per cent of the gross rental. This is reduced to 7.5 per cent where the rent is payable monthly. The recommended charge for other property is 5 per cent.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Firmer note in drifting equities

The Stock Market began the new account on a quiet, but apparently, firm note yesterday as the holiday period continued to take its toll.

The general routine was much the same of late with most interest being centred on specialist sectors and company news. Dealers did manage to take some heart from the news of a last ditch attempt at resolving the steel strike but in general equities remained dull. Hopes of a mention by brokers or the weekend press as being a buy for the new year saw a handful of shares buzz but it was hardly enough to draw much solid support.

Gold shares remained buoyant reflecting the recent rise in the bullion price, which finished the day yesterday $1 off at $510 an ounce, although most were subject to profit taking after Thursday's sharp rise.

Activity among gilt edged was low even though longs were mostly an £⅛ better. This however, was mainly offset by the shorter end of the mark market when after a firm start they drifted back to finish about £1/16 to £⅛ off.

Business after hours proved a little brighter with the *FT* Index finishing at its highest point of the day 3.1 up at 417.8.

The firmer trend was reflected in leading industrials where **Fisons** improved 5p to 264p and **ICI** gained 4p to 361p as did **Metal Box** loss ground earlier in the week in connexion with the effect of the steel strike. Risese of 2p were noted in **Unilever** 2p up at 454p, **Beecham** at 119p and **Glaxo** at 436p. **Pilkington Bros** were 2p off at 198 as the new shares went fully paid.

On the bid front **Anthony Gibbs** climbed 4p to 75p following its approach earlier in the week from Hongkong & Shanghai Bank while **Highland Distillers** firmed 1p to 146p as it prepared for its battle to fend of the advance of Canadian distillers Hiram Walker. **Joseph Shakespeare** were unchanged at 27p as was its would-be suitor **Wheway Watson** at 15p.

Shares of the troubled engineering group **Fairbairn Lawson** were suspended at 12p, just above the low for the year, and follows an earlier suspension period earlier in the year. Another troubled engineering group to be suspended was **Wilson Walton** where the shares were froze at 8p.

Among shipping shares **P & O** climbed 4p to 110p on hopes that it might be named share of the year, while **Furness Withy** advanced 11p to 257p on reports that Eurocanadian might be ready to launch a full-scale bid. Speculative interest was good for 3½p rise in **Wearwell** at 48½p, **APV** 5p stronger at 181p, **British Benzole** 4p to the good at 47p and **Norton & Wright** 9p up at 96p in a thin market.

News that **William Collins** had sold one of its London properties and then leased it back prompted a rise of 5p to 113p and the BL-Honda deal cheered shares of **Lucas** 6p up at 234p.

Companies with substantial interests in the North Sea featured strongly the oil price continued to rise. **Carless Capel** led with a 6p rise at 82p, **Associated Newspapers** jumped 8p to 250p and **National Carbonising** improved 4p to 128p. Only **Cawoods** 2p lower at 156p and **Imperial Continental Gas** 1p off at 600p went against the trend.

Some of the major oil companies managed to stage a rally with **BP** 8p higher at 350p, and the new 6p better at 147p. **Shell** were 4p higher at 328p, **Ultramar** 6p up at 418p, **Lasmo** 13p to the good at 351p and **Tricentrol** with a rise of 7p to 258p.

Textiles finished mixed. **Nottingham Manufacturing** was 1p better at 72p as was **Courtaulds** at 73p. **Carrington Viyella** at 18p and **Tootal** at 28p were both unchanged.

Properties gave a firmer performance than of late with **Hammerson 'A'** continuing its upward trend rising a further 15p to 730p as the new gained 8p to 158p. **Land Securities** at 259p and **Trafford Park** at 118p were both 3p better but **MEPC** was 1p lower at 166p.

Profit taking left gold shares finishing mostly mixed with **Western Holdings** $¼ up at $54¼, **Anglo American** $1 better at $76½ while in Australians featured **Hampton Gold** 15p stronger at 260p. Profit taking $2½ from **West Driefontein** at $69½ and **Kloof** at $1⅞ at $26¼. **Selection Trust** featured prominently strongly among the London financials with Selection Trust leaping 32p to 578p, **Consolidated Gold Fields** advanced 1p to 384p and **R.T.Z.** put on 4p to 384p.

Insurances were slightly better with rises averaging a couple of pence while among the major clearing banks **Barclays** improved 5p to 430p, **Lloyds** 3p to 308p and **Grindlays** were 10p better at 133p.

The major clearing banks continued their recent rally with **Barclays** 5p up at 430p, **Lloyds** 3p stronger at 308p while **National Westminster** put on 2p to 353p. **Grindlays** were also wanted, jumping 10p to 133p.

Insurances also gave a better performance than of late with gains of 2p in **GRE** at 228p, **General Accident** at 220p and **Pearl** at 274p. **Commercial Union** was 1p firmer at 139p. **C. T. Bowring** continued to gather strength as it waited for **Marsh & Maclellan** to make its next move, improving 3p to 132p.

Electricals were dull with **Thorn** dipping 2p to 280p on reports of increased imports of television tubes. **Racal** was unchanged at 186p and **GEC** rose 3p to 336p.

Equity turnover on December 27 was £39.201m (5,911 bargains).

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Cullens Stores (I)	8.5(7.6)	0.143(0.07)	3.09(1.38)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Hampton Areas (I)	—(—)	0.43(0.15)	—(—)	1.5(1.5)	23/2	—(3.3)
J. F. Nash (F)	35.1(28.7)	0.59(0.37)	9.9(4.3)	3.5(3.27)	27/2	6.5(5.77)
Vectis Stone (F)	3.8(2.6)	0.63(0.54)	4.05(3.07)	0.95(0.62)	26/2	1.45(0.82)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net.

Fairbairn is suspended again

By Our Financial Staff

For the second time in the past three months the shares of troubled engineering group Fairbairn Lawson have been suspended.

Yesterday the shares were put on ice at 12p valuing the company at £1.4m. Dealings in Fairbairn were resumed on December 10 after an eight week suspension at 20½p.

Following the suspension of Fairbairn Lawson's listing, the directors announced that discussions were taking place which might lead to offers being made for all the share capital of the company. A further announcement was promised as soon as possible.

Earlier this month the group announced that it had sold its loss-making Greenbat subsidiary to Atlantic Engineering and Company, a Jersey-based company controlled by a consortium of South American investors. The cost of the complex deal was described by the Fairbairn directors as "heavy"

According to the 1978 annual report—which was qualified by auditors Price Waterhouse—the actual loss amounted to more than £2m and the chairman reported that the Greenbat problems have had an effect on the other divisions.

Speculation in the City surrounds the 5.5 per cent stake in the group held by Martac Aktiengesellschaft of Vaduz, Lichtenstein. However, yesterday there were no Fairbairn directors available for comment.

Another engineering company to be suspended was Wilson Walton, at 8p.

The North Sea construction group made a loss last year of £1.7m and at the time of the mid-October full year figure announcement, the directors admitted that the only business on its books was a £4m contract with BNOC. The director in charge of technical affairs, Mr G. M. Murray, resigned in front of the annual meeting giving no reason for his action.

No dividend has been paid since 1977. At 8p a share the company is valued at £400,000.

Strike slows J F Nash

By Rosemary Unsworth

J. F. Nash Securities, the Kettering-based Scimitar cars-to-packaging group which now holds 96 per cent of Reliant Motor Group, lost about £150,000 in profits during the year because of the engineering strike.

The group managed slightly to exceed its profits forecast, made in October, and pushed up pretax profits by 60 per cent to £598,000. Turnover rose by 22 per cent to £35.1m in the year ending September 30, 1979 with the trading disruption in August and September caused by the dispute. The figures include Reliant's results for the first time. The share price was unchanged at 70p on the announcement.

The proposed final dividend of 5p gross, also as forecast, makes a total for the year of 9.3p compared with 9.1p last year.

Mr John Nash, chairman, said that despite the unfavourable economic climate, the group's trading during the first quarter of the current year has been generally satisfactory.

Nash made an agreed £700,000 bid for the remaining 23 per cent of Reliant's shares it did not already own in October which is unconditional and remains open for further acceptances. The plan is to develop Nash as an industrial group and simplify its management structure. The group bought its original 77 per cent stake in Reliant in June 1977.

Cavenham and Anglo Continental ahead

By Our Financial Staff

Major pre-tax profit increases have been recorded at two of financier Sir James Goldsmith's enterprises, Cavenham and Anglo-Continental Investment and Finance. At Cavenham, interim results almost doubled to £27.1m, while Anglo-Continental, also reporting interims, pushed profits up from £624,000 to £1.83m.

Cavenham is the United Kingdom manufacturer and retailer of food and related products. The group, which controls many subsidiaries in north America, Ireland, other European countries and South Africa, is wholly owned by Sir James's master company, General Occidentale, registered in France.

Sales by Cavenham in the 32 weeks to the middle of November were £1.37bn, and tax was £7.3m. Sales show an advance of about £300,000 on the same period of last year.

Anglo-Continental is another wholly-owned subsidiary of General Occidentale. Its interests are banking, insurance and investment. But the group's banking associate, Banque Occidentale pour l'Industrie et le Commerce, has merged with Societe Financiere et Industrielle pour l'Expansion des Enterprises, reducing Anglo-Continental's stake in the new company to approximately 19 per cent.

Operating profit for the six months to the end of September was 3.29m, compared with £1.64m for the same period of last year. Earnings per share rose from 2.21p to 3.44p. Extraordinary items have been excluded until the final results are published.

Cavenham's profits for the whole of the previous financial year were £32.8m. The company then expected a significant increase in profits for the current year.

Anglo-Continental's profits were £1.98m for the nine months to the end of March. At the beginning of the month a Cavenham offshoot, Allied Supplies, paid £9.5m for Caters, a supermarket chain formerly owned by Debenhams. Cavenham has also recently been expanding its interests in the United States.

Pitman down by over 45 pc

The general slump in the book trade is blamed for the sharp drop in profits for the publishing and training colleges group Pitman.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, Pitman's pre-tax profits fell by more than 45 per cent to £616,000 compared with £1.135m last time. Turnover was down, too, during the period but only marginally at £12.859m against £13.453m.

Although the publishing division did poorly in the first half of the year the group says that Pitman's printing operation improved its profitability while the training colleges and aids held their own at the half way stage.

Apart from the weaker trading conditions in publishing Pitman has suffered from internal organizational changes made on the books side.

The group has also been hit by higher interest charges which have moved up from £293,000 last time to £431,000. These higher costs have come from the extra capital needed to rationalize Pitman's distribution division.

The board confidently predicts that profits in the current half will be roughly in line with last year's second half figures, around £400,000. This will take the year's total to a little over the £1 mark, a third down on the 1978 final profit

Mooloya quotation halted

The shares of Mooloya Investments were suspended yesterday at the company's request following the closing of the offer from privately-owned Nunnery Holdings.

Nunnery, which is controlled by Mr I. A. Phillips, a director of Mooloya, made a 70 3/16p a share offer for the 232,000 ordinary Mooloya shares it does not already own, valuing Mooloya at £163,000.

Nunnery is acting as agent for Mr Phillips, Mr B. Hersh, Mr G. Truman and Mr S. Terry who, between them, hold 225,500 Mooloya shares.

During the period of the original offer, made on November 5 and the renewed bid on November 18 no ordinary shares in Mooloya were bought by Nunnery of any of the principals. The number of bid acceptances so far amount to 125.

Mooloya is currently negotiating with an international group over the future development of car seat cover makers Customagic Manufacturing Company, its main operating subsidiary. Mooloya took over Customagic last year (1978).

Earlier this year the shares of Mooloya were suspended ahead of the take-over announcement. The listing was restored two weeks later on August 29.

Talbex Fair-Air decision

Talbex, the aerosols-to-hair-dressing group, will decide on the future of its problematic air conditioning subsidiary Fair-Air, in the next few months.

Chairman, Mr Stanley Lunt said at yesterday's annual meeting in London that the options now facing Talbex were whether to continue with Fair-Air, which it acquired last year and has already caused large losses in the group, sell the company or close it down.

Although Fair-Air made profits in the four month period to the end of November, Mr Lunt warned shareholders that the order books were still "very thin and unbalanced".

He added that he could give no assurances that profits would continue to be earned throughout the current year.

Last year Talbex made pre-tax losses of £131,000 against profits of £573,000 the year before. Efforts were made then to prune the Fair-Air companies' overheads.

Skelton, the other company that joined the group last year and then turned in losses, went back into profit last month. Mr Lunt said he expected it would contribute to group profits during the year. All other trading divisions were profitable and should meet or exceed budgeted profits for the next year, he added.

Hunt brothers' Bache stake

Mr N. Bunker Hunt and Mr W. Herbert Hunt, wealthy Dallas oil men and investors, have bought an estimated 3 per cent interest in Bache Group Inc., sources at the securities-firm holding company disclosed. The sources said that the purchases, made in recent weeks, total about 285,000 shares. This would give the Hunt Brothers slightly more than a 3 per cent equity in Bache, which has about 8 million shares outstanding.

In Dallas, a spokesman for the Hunts confirmed that the brothers have purchased shares "for investment purposes only". He declined to specify the amount.

Bache sources said that the purchases were made at the urging of Mr Harry A. Jacobs Jr., Bache chairman and chief executive officer. It has been no secret on Wall Street that Mr Jacobs has been trying to get as much Bache stock as possible into friendly hands to thwart any takeover attempts. The Hunts are long-time securities and commodities customers of Bache Halsey Stuart Shields Inc, Bache Group's major subsidiary.

Bache perceives major threat from Bel-Fran Investments Ltd, a Vancouver concern controlled by three brothers Messrs Samuel, William and Hyman Belzberg. Bel-Fran currently owns slightly less than 7 per cent of Bache and had expressed an interest in increasing its holdings to as much as 25 per cent.

However, Bache holders effectively neutralized the Belzberg holdings by passing at the annual meeting last October a series of rules that would make it extremely difficult for any group to take control of the company, among other things, the rules would make it necessary for anyone seeking to gain control to acquire 75 per cent of the common outstanding.

International

Opel sets record

Adam Opel AG, the West German car manufacturing unit of General Motors Corp of the US, produced a record of 971,635 passenger cars in 1979, up 1.3 per cent from 959,202 units in 1978, the previous record.

Opel Chairman Herr James F. Waters, jr, termed 1979 "an altogether satisfactory year" for Opel. In his comment on the company's 1979 performance, Waters did not mention profit.

For 1980, Herr Waters said, Opel expects the car market to stabilize with the first half marked by restraint on the part of customers and a sales uptrend in the second half of 1980.

Of Opel's total 1979 output, about 475,000 cars went into the domestic market, down about 10 per cent from 527,447 cars in 1978 while about 496,000 units were exported, up 13.2 per cent from 438,149 cars in 1978.

Opel's statement stressed that the export market proved to be a stabilizing factor during the last months of this year. The company, like Ford-Werke AG, the West German subsidiary of Ford Motor Co of the US, had to introduce part time work because of a slowdown in domestic demand for its larger size models.

Opel said that at the end of 1979 it had 67,000 persons on its payroll at plants in Ruesselsheim, Bochum, Kaiserslautern and West Berlin against 64,844 a year ago.

New V W plant

Volkswagen of America will add a second assembly plant to its North American operations, President James W. McLernon said in an end of year statement.

He thus confirmed expectations which followed last summer's announcement by Volkswagen's West German parent, Volkswagenwerk AG, of a $3,100m capital spending plan which would place special emphasis on North America.

McLernon said increased demand for Volkswagen's products had taxed the recently expanded United States production capacity to the limit. The Westmoreland PA plant is capable of producing 1,000 vehicles a day.

A VW spokesman said he expects the decision on whether to buy or build the second plant to be made early next year, adding that the location, cost and timing will depend on the build or buy decision.

Reliance-Exxon

Exxon Corp and Reliance Electric Co said the merger of an Exxon subsidiary with Reliance was approved by Reliance stockholders. The merger has become effective.

Exxon already owned shares entitled to about 94 per cent of the votes and over 94 per cent of the remaining votes cast were in favour of the merger the companies said. As a result of the merger Exxon has acquired the balance of the outstanding Reliance shares for $72 a share of common stock $201.97 a share of series A preferred stock and $1,000 plus accrued dividends a share of 9 per cent preferred stock, they said.

Documents will be sent promptly to the former Reliance stockholders for the surrender of their Reliance stock certificates

American Express

American Express has completed its previously announced $175m purchase of a 50 per cent interest in Warner Communications Inc's cable television subsidiary, Warner Cable Corp.

The company will now be knowns as Warner Amex Cable Communications and Warner and American Express have equal representation on the board of the new concern. The companies said.

German Mobil

Mobil Oil AG, West German subsidiary of Mobil Oil Corp, revised downwards its projected 1979 net profit to between DM260m and DM290m from a previously forecast DM280m to DM340m, a German Mobil spokesman said from Hamburg.

The revision was made because of new crude oil price increases back-dated to earlier this year.

German Mobil 1978 net profit was DM169.5m against DM5.2m in 1977.

In a letter to employees the company said it had a DM36.5m net profit in the third quarter of 1979.

The spokesman said no comparison with the third quarter of 1978 is available as the company did not give a quarterly breakdown of figures last year.

In the first nine months this year German Mobil had a 13.4 per cent share of German domestic crude oil production, extracting 500,000 tonnes, and a 20.6 per cent share of total domestic natural gas output, producing 3.2 billion cubic metres.

IBM sells notes

International Business Machines has sold $300m of notes in a private placement to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. It said the notes have a final maturity of seven years. The proceeds will be used for increased capital requirements for construction of manufacturing facilities for rental equipment to meet customer demand for the company's products and services.

William Collins property deal

Diary and book publishers William Collins has sold the freehold of its London headquarters building to an investment trust for £3.6m. Under the terms of the sale of the 13,000 sq ft building in St James's Place London SW1 Collins has agreed to lease back the offices at an annual rent of around £180,000.

The publishers are to lease the office block for up to five years during which time they will look for another building.

The £3.6m sale price represents a massive increase over the £550,000 book value. Collins say the surplus will be used to reduce group borrowings which for the year to December 31, 1978 stood at over £13m.

A cash-raising exercise of this kind has been expected since the group published its interim figures which showed losses of more than £800,000 compared with a profit in the 1978 first half of £1.2m. Chairman Mr Jan Collins said that it was imperative for the group to reduce borrowings and costs. Interest charges during the first six months of 1979 had increased by 52 per cent to more than £1m.

Board buys more May and Hassell

Directors of timber importers May & Hassell have increased their shareholdings in the company. Mr Dennis Raby has acquired 3,500 ordinary shares, Mr Noel Atley has acquired 1,500 ordinary shares, and Mr Peter Atley has increased his beneficial interest by 1,500 ordinary shares and his non-beneficial interest by 2,000 shares.

Both Mr Paul Thompson and Mr J. L. Emmerson have increased their non-beneficial interests through the acquisition of a further 2,000 ordinary shares and Mr John Badley has acquired 3,000 shares.

Takeovers clear monopoly hurdle

The following proposed mergers are not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts) Holdings with Euro-Exhaust Centre Holdings; Eagle Star Holdings with Bernard Sunley Investment Trust; Sears Holdings with Wallis Fashion Group. British Petroleum with Hendrix Fabrieken; Thorn Electrical Industries with GEBR Kaiser GMBH and Co Leutchen; Calor Gas with Glogas; David Dixon & Son Holdings with Montfort (knitting mills); and Polygram Group with Decca Record.

Inveresk group completes sale

The sale of Inveresk Group's interest in the paper merchanting business through its holding in Link Paper & Supplies was completed yesterday. Swedish based Mo & Domsjo has paid £1.417m cash and assumed bank liabilities of £3.7m. The Office of Fair Trading has confirmed it will not refer the sale to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

United Wire Group cautious

Mr Anthony Green, chairman of the United Wire Group, says that the company's level of profitability continues to be affected by interest rates, inflation and the strength of sterling. Because of these factors he adds that it is not possible to forecast results for the current year.

John Williams qualified

Auditors Touche Ross have qualified the accounts of John Williams of Cardiff because no depreciation has been provided on the group's freehold buildings. The auditors state that this does not comply with the Standard Accounting Practice 12 relating to property depreciation. Touche Ross say they are unable to quantify the effect of non-compliance with this standard.

Gen Stockholders' strategy

Despite general economic problems in the United States there are companies with increasing order books and strong balance-sheets in which The General Stockholders Investment Trust will continue to invest, says chairman, Mr William Govett in his annual statement. He is confident that profits of these companies will continue to increase and that the asset value and income stream of the Trust will benefit.

Bristol Utd Press is referred

Trade Secretary Mr John Nott is referring to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the proposed transfer of the West Somerset Free Press newspaper to Bristol United Press. The decision follows the agreement last March by BUP to acquire 75 per cent of the issued share capital of Cox, Sons & Co, publishers of the Free Press, from Farnham Castle Newspapers.

Under the 1973 Fair Trading Act the secretary of state has to give his approval for newspaper transfers if the proprietors' total circulation exceeds 500,000 a day.

Turnbull Scott sells carrier

Turnbull Scott Shipping has sold its 29,500 tons bulk carrier MV Trongate for £5.24m to United Kingdom buyers and have leased back the vessel for 30 years. The Trongate contributed more than 30 per cent to group losses of more than £2m after interest and depreciation in the 14 months to March 31 1979. The sale enable TS Shipping to repay its $9.5m loan on the Trongate and its share of the $1m loan on the MV Venetia.

Louis C. Edwards expands

Yorkshire Biscuits (a subsidiary of Louis C. Edwards & Sons) has received acceptances in respect of its offer for Furniss and Co of 71,379 shares, some 89.2 per cent. This includes 15,617 shares, 19.5 per cent held by the directors, who had irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

Yorkshire Biscuits has declared the offer unconditional in all respects and it will remain open until further notice.

B. F. Goodrich

B. F. Goodrich expects new car sales to decline in 1980, a trend which will adversely affect tyre shipments to the original equipment market.

The company expects new car sales to fall to about $9.5m in 1980 from an estimated $10.6m in 1979, with the major portion of the reduction in United States built cars.

Goodrich said unit passenger tyre sales in the replacement market will continue near the 1979 level, which was somewhat depressed from the levels of 1978 and earlier years.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Arabs take Sunshine silver mine stake

By Michael Prest

When Mr G. Michael Boswell, president of the Sunshine Mining company, the United States's biggest pure silver mine, was passing through town a free weeks ago on a quietly promotional tour, he hinted that unnamed Arabs had shown interest in his company's prospects. Now they have surfaced.

Arab Investors Group, a private Luxembourg-registered company believed to be controlled by Kuwaiti interests, has reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission that it has bought 19.4 per cent of Sunshine's common stock, amounting to 1.03m shares. The price was a total of $21.9m (£10.5m).

Not content with this modest outlay, Arab Investors has acquired from Sunshine an option to buy another 500,000 shares, costing $10.6m. Should the option be exercised, the group would control 26.3 per cent of the silver miner.

The Arabs, one of whose directors is H. H. Sheikha Badriah, a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family, say that their purchase is an investment. In other words, it is unlikely that they would want actually to run the company. That is characteristic of this kind of Arab investment.

The investment works both ways. Silver has been one of the year's fastest performers. While 12 months ago the London Metal Exchange closing ring price was 286p an ounce for cash delivery, yesterday it was 1,262.5p. Sunshine's profits have responded accordingly. Net income was $1.56m in 1977, $319m in 1978, and $9.04m in the first three quarters of the current year — 310 per cent up on the same period of last year.

Mr Boswell confidently expects the trend to continue. He sees the fundamental demand-supply position as very favourable to the mining companies. Inflation and the general scramble for precious metals can only help. Consequently, Sunshine, whose mine is in Idaho, plans to spend between $250m and $300m on trebling production to around 15m ounces a year. That is where the Arabs come in.

The price at which Arab Investors is buying Sunshine's stock averages $21.3. This is a good price, bearing in mind that it stood at around $16½ in mid-November. A leading firm of American silver analysts estimates that Sunshine stands on a prospective price/earnings ratio for 1979 of 8.2. The yield, however, is only 2.4 per cent.

Options

Activity among London Traded options remained at a low ebb yesterday as a result of the extended holiday period. Total contracts amounted to 232 compared with the previous day's figure of 161. Consolidated Gold Fields and Gec both attracted what attention there was accounting for 136 contracts.

The position in traditional options was much the same. Grand Met proved to be active as were several of the Australian gold shares while a put was arranged in Cons Gold following its recent price rise.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crdts	17%
C. Hoare & Co	*17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Rossminster	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15%, up to £25,000 15½%, over £25,000 15¾%.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 27.—Stocks were marginally lower on volume of about 6m shares this morning. The Dow Jones industrial average was about a point lower and declines marginally led advances.

Bache Group gained ½ to 10¼. It confirmed that N. Bunker Hunt and W. Herbert Hunt have purchased about three per cent of the company's shares.

Howard Johnson picked up ⅜ to 24¼. The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has determined that Imperial Group's proposed takeover of Howard Johnson will not conflict with the alcoholic beverage laws of the state.

Big leap for gold

GOLD rose by $17.20 to reach a spot price of $515.50 in New York. In Chicago it rose $11.40 to $532.50. NY COMEX.—Jan, $515.50; Feb, [illegible]; April, $540.50-[illegible]; June, $555.00-560.00; Aug, $573.00; Oct, $588.00; Dec, $604.00; Feb, $614.00; April, $627.00; June, [illegible]; Aug, $652.60; Oct, $664.00. CHICAGO IMM.—March, $532.50; June, $560.20; Sept, $545.00; Dec, $606.20; March, $625.50; June, $642.60; Sept, $670.00.

SILVER rose 10.50c to reach 273.00c. Jan, 272.50-274.00; Feb, 267.10c; March, 270.50c; May, 274.80c; July, 278.40c; Sept, 282.15c; Dec, 289.10c; Jan, 291.05c; March, 294.92c; May, 298.80c; July, 302.72c; Sept, 306.62c.

COPPER was steady.—Jan, 100.80c; Feb, 102.00c; March, 102.50-103.10c; May, 103.50c; July, 102.50c; Sept, 103.20c; Dec, 103.60c; Jan, 103.80c; March, 104.00c; May, 104.80c; July, 105.30c; Sept, 105.80c.

COTTON futures recovered from morning lows to trade near yesterday's settlement prices.—March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Oct, [illegible]; Dec, [illegible]; March, [illegible].

COFFEE was off a full 5c in March, with similar falls in other futures: March, 185.00-183.75c; May, 176.00; July, 173.75-175.00c; Sept, 174.50-175.00c; Dec, 174.50c; March, 171.50-171.90c; May, unquoted.

COCOA was off highs in very dull trading: March, 140.40c; May, 141.10c; July, 142.00c; Sep, 143.75c; Dec, 151.40c; March, 151.84c.

SUGAR No. 11 traded steadily. Jan 17.00c; March 16.61-16.75c; May 16.75-16.80c; July 16.70-16.80c; Sep 16.70-16.75c; Oct 16.65-16.70c; Jan unquoted; March 16.60c; May 16.45-16.50c.

CHICAGO GRAINS MAIZE: Dec 316½c, off 5½c; March 330½c, off 4½c; May 301½c, off 7½c. WHEAT: Dec 497c, off 7½c; March 458½c, off 5½c; May 466c, off 5½c.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS: Jan 654-55c; March 677-76c; May 700-699c; July 720-19½c; Aug 733½c; Sep 730½c; Nov 738½c; Jan 762½c.

SOYABEAN OIL: Jan 24.15c; March 24.50-37c; May 24.80-85c; July 25.10c; Aug 25.25c; Sep [illegible]; Oct 25.50c; Dec 25.70c; Jan 25.70c; March 25.70-85c.

SOYABEAN MEAL: Jan $184.00-4.30; March $186.80-700; May $191.70-180; July $196.50-7.50; Aug $199.50-200.00; Sep $202.50; Oct $204.80; Dec $207.50-8.20; Jan $209.70; March unquoted.

	Dec 27	Dec 26		Dec 27	Dec 26		Dec 27	Dec 26
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pullman	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rapid American	22	22
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gamble Skogmo	32	[illegible]	Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]	RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]	Republic Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	46	Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Airlines	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Broadcast	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Pub Util NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Dutch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Can	[illegible]	35	Gen Tel Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]	Safeways	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Cyanamid	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]	St Regis Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Elec Power	[illegible]	[illegible]	Genesco	[illegible]	4	Santa Fe Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	SCM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Getty Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Schlumberger	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Nat Res	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]	Scott Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Standard	[illegible]	[illegible]	Goodrich	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seaboard Coast	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]	Goodyear	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMF Inc	[illegible]	15	Gould Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sears Roebuck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Armco Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Grace	40	[illegible]	Shell Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gt Atlic & Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	Shell Trans	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ashland Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Greyhound	[illegible]	[illegible]	Signal Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atlantic Richfield	[illegible]	[illegible]	Grumman Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Singer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sony	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gulf & West	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sth Cal Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bankers Tst NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Heinz H. J.	40	[illegible]	Southern Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of America	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hercules	[illegible]	[illegible]	Southern Rly	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sperry Rand	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beatrice Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	IC Inds	[illegible]	25	Std Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bell & Howell	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ingersoll	[illegible]	[illegible]	Std Oil Califnia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bendix	[illegible]	[illegible]	Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Std Oil Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bethlehem Steel	[illegible]	21	IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]	Std Oil Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Harvester	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sterling Drug	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	[illegible]	INCO	[illegible]	[illegible]	Stevens J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borden	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sunbeam Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borg Warner	36	36	Int Tel Tel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun Comp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol Myers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Irving Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]	Teledyne	[illegible]	[illegible]
BP	[illegible]	30	Jewel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tenneco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jim Walter	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texaco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	[illegible]	[illegible]	Johns-Manville	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texas East Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burroughs	[illegible]	80	Johnson & Johnson	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texas Inst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	[illegible]	Kaiser Alumin	19	[illegible]	Texas Utilities	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canadian Pacific	33	[illegible]	Kennecott	[illegible]	[illegible]	Textron	28	[illegible]
Caterpillar	[illegible]	54	Kerr McGee	63	[illegible]	TWA	[illegible]	17
Celanese	46	[illegible]	Kimberly Clark	41	[illegible]	Travelers Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Soya	[illegible]	[illegible]	Kraftco Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	TRW Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	[illegible]	[illegible]	K Mart	[illegible]	24	UAL Inc	23	[illegible]
Chem Bank NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Kroger	[illegible]	[illegible]	Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chesapeake Ohio	[illegible]	30	Ligget Group	[illegible]	[illegible]	Union Oil Calif	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]	LTV Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Un Pacific Corp	72	72
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Litton	[illegible]	[illegible]	Uniroyal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cities Service	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lockheed	[illegible]	[illegible]	United Brands	11	11
Clark Equip	37	[illegible]	Lucky Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	US Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola	35	[illegible]	Manuf Hanover	[illegible]	[illegible]	US Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colgate	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mapco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Utd Technol	[illegible]	[illegible]
CBS	[illegible]	[illegible]	Marathon Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wachovia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	[illegible]	35	Marine Midland	19	[illegible]	Warner Lambert	[illegible]	20
Combustion Eng	59	[illegible]	Martin Marietta	[illegible]	44	Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comwlth Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]	McDonnell	[illegible]	[illegible]	West'n Bancorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Conoco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mead	[illegible]	[illegible]	Westnghse Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]	Memorex	[illegible]	19	Weyerhauser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Foods	[illegible]	26	Merck	[illegible]	[illegible]	Whirlpool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Power	[illegible]	19	Minnesota Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]	White Motor	6	6
Continental Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mobil Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Woolworth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Control Data	[illegible]	[illegible]	Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]	Xerox Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Glass	[illegible]	[illegible]	Morgan J. P.	46	[illegible]	Zenith	[illegible]	[illegible]
CPC Intnl	61	62	Motorola	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Crane	[illegible]	[illegible]	NCR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	**Canadian Prices**	**Dec**	**Dec**
Crocker Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	NL Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]	Abitibi	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crown Zeller	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nabisco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Alcan Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dart Ind	40	40	Nat Distillers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Algoma Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nat Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bell Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delta Air	[illegible]	40	Norfolk West	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cominco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Detroit Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]	NW Bancorp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cons Bathurst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney	[illegible]	[illegible]	Norton Simon	[illegible]	[illegible]	Falconbridge	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	[illegible]	Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dresser Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ogden	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hawker/Sid Can	[illegible]	[illegible]
Duke Power	[illegible]	[illegible]	Olin Corp	[illegible]	18	Hudson Bay Min	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]	Owens-Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hudson Bay Oil	103	103
Eastern Air	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pacific Gas Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imasco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pan Am	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imperial Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Penney J. C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Pipe	[illegible]	[illegible]
El Paso Nat Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pennzoil	[illegible]	40	Mass.-Ferguson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equitable Life	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Trust	[illegible]	[illegible]
Esmark	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pfizer	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seagram	48	48
Evans P. D.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Phelps Dodge	30	[illegible]	Steel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exxon Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Philip Morris	[illegible]	[illegible]	Talcorp	[illegible]	14
Fed Dept Stores	[illegible]	28	Phillips Petrol	[illegible]	[illegible]	Thomson N 'A'	[illegible]	[illegible]
Firestone	[illegible]	9	Polaroid	[illegible]	[illegible]	Walker Hiram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Chicago	[illegible]	[illegible]	PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	WCT	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Nat Boston	[illegible]	[illegible]	Proctor Gamble	[illegible]	74			
Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]			

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot, 2.2420 (2.2135); three months, 2.2135 (2.2051); Canadian dollar 1.1733 (1.1737).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 433.78. The futures index was 428.39.

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 840.10 (838.14); transportation 250.97 (250.87); utilities 107.61 (107.83); 65 stocks, 299.27 (298.98). New York Stock Exchange index, 61.91 (61.82); industrials 70.14 (70.01); transportation, 50.78 (50.70); utilities, 37.01 (37.01); financial, 65.37 (65.25).

Discount market

Heavy tax payments caused a severe shortage of credit in the discount market yesterday. To relieve this shortage, the Bank of England finally gave a very large amount of assistance. This help comprised the purchase of a moderate amount of Treasury bills, both from the houses and the banks, and a small number of corporation bills directly from the houses—plus small loans over the weekend to five or six houses at 17 per cent MLR.

Credit conditions were extremely tight from the start and houses kept their bids at 17 per cent pending some help from the authorities, while overnight money interbank swung up to 18 per cent. Closing balances were taken at anything from 15½ per cent up to 17 per cent.

The only factor in the market's favour was the slightly above-target balances carried forward from Thursday. Against this were a small net take-up of Treasury bills, a small rise in the note circulation, and the large excess of Revenue transfers to the Exchequer over government disbursements.

Money Market Rates

Recent Issues

Commodities

COPPER was irregular. — Afternoon. — Cash wire bars, £991-93 a metric ton; three months, £1,001-1,002. Sales, 3,000. Cash cathodes, £981-83; three months, £981-83. Sales, 100 tons. Morning. — Cash wire bars, £997-98; three months, £1,007-1,008. Settlement, £998. Sales, 7,700 tons. Cash cathodes, £969-70; three months, £986-88. Settlement, £970. Sales, 1,725 tons.

TIN was easy. — Afternoon. — Standard cash, £7,430-40 a metric ton; three months, £7,190-7,200. Sales, 555 tons. High grade, cash, £7,420-30; three months, £7,215-25. Sales, nil tons. Morning. — Standard cash, £7,445-50; three months, £7,305-7,310. Settlement, £7,550. Sales, 650 tons. High grade, cash, £7,575-80; three months, £7,325-35. Settlement, £7,560. Sales, nil tons. Singapore tin ex-works, $M2,138 a picul.

LEAD was easier. — Afternoon. — Cash, £503-504 per metric ton; three months, £505-08. Sales, 2,900 tons. Morning. — Cash, £509-510; three months, £499-500. Settlement, £510. Sales, 5,300 tons.

ZINC was steadier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £335-36 a metric ton; three months, £725-26. Sales, 1,300 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £330-31; three months, £740-41. Settlement, £331. Sales, 3,500 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £204.25 ($460) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 1,249.70p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 2,780); three months, 1,336.70p (2,880.50c); six months, 1,330.70p (2,918.70c); one year, 1,364.10p (3,033.40c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 1,260-65p; three months, 1,295-98p. Sales, 100 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash 1,260-65p; three months, 1,300-1,301p. Settlement, 1,265p. Sales, 120 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £960-62 per metric ton; three months, £940-42. Sales, 2,000 tons. Morning.—Cash, £935-37; three months, £937-40. Settlement, £937. Sales, 800 tons.

NICKEL was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,700-2,710 per metric ton; three months, £2,800-2,810. Sales, 114 tons. Morning.—Cash, £2,725-45; three months, £2,825-35. Settlement, £2,743. Sales, 312 tons.

RUBBER was quiet (pence per kilo): Feb 67.20-67.60; March 68.50-68.20; April-June 70.10-70.20; July-Sep 72.35-72.40; Oct-Dec 74.73-74.80; Jan-March 77.15-77.30; April-June 79.50-79.55; July-Sep 81.90-82.00; Oct-Dec 84.20-84.80. Sales, five at five tonnes; 150 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet spot 66.70-67.80. Cifs. Feb 67.25-68.00; March 68.25-69.00.

COFFEE ROBUSTAS (£ per metric ton): Jan 1658-1659; March 1590-1591; May 1572-1577; July 1561-1545; Sep 1545-1550; Nov 1530-1550; Jan 1510-1540. Sales: 6,198 lots.

COCOA was barely steady (£ per metric ton).—Dec, 1426-1428; March, 1473-1475; May, 1474-1478; July, 1479-1480; Sept, 1497-1498; Dec, 1519-1531; March, 1540-1550. Sales: 6,815 lots. ICCO prices: daily (Dec 27) 138.38c; indicator prices (Dec 28): 15-day average 144.75c; 22-day average, 144.60c. (US cents per lb).

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £5 lower at £179; the "whites" price was £2.50 lower at £195.50. Futures (£ per tonne): Old contract (quiet): March, 184.60-184.90; May, 185.60-185.75; Aug, 184.30-184.70; Oct 184.25-184.60. Sales, 3,890 lots. New contract (quiet): May, 184.50-184.75; Aug 182.60-182.70; Oct 185-185.50; Jan 180-182; March 183-183.50; May 182.75-185.00. Sales, 407 lots. ISA prices (Dec 27): daily 15.94c; 15-day average 14.84c. White sugar was quiet: Feb, 191-196; April 195-196; July 196-199; Sept 197-201; Nov 199-205; Feb, 201-207; April, 201-207. Sales, 50 lots.

SOYABEAN MEAL was quiet (£ per tonne): Feb, 120.80-121.00; April, 119.90-120.10; June, 118.80-119.20; Aug, 120.30-121.50; Oct, 118.70-119.30; Dec, 120-122; Feb, 120-124. Sales, 104 lots.

WOOL.—Greasy futures (pence per kilo): Australian (quiet): Dec, 218-238; March, May, July, Oct, Dec, March, May, all 232-242. Sales, nil. New Zealand crossbreds (quiet): Dec 190-205; March, May, July, Oct, Dec, March, May, all 188-198. Sales, nil.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring unquoted. US dark northern spring No 2 14 per cent: Jan, £104.75; Feb, £106.25; March, £107.75 trans-shipment east coast. US hard winter 13½ per cent: Feb, £100.50; March, £106.30 trans-shipment east coast. EEC unquoted. MAIZE.—US French unquoted. South African white unquoted. South African yellow: Jan, £82.

BARLEY.—English feed fob: Jan, £98; Jan-March, £100; April-June, £105.25 east coast. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY was steady: Jan, £95.85; March, £97; May, £101.10; Sept, £94.80; Nov, £98.35. Sales, 300 lots. WHEAT was steady: Jan, £95.65; March, £100.15; May, £104.40; Sept, £97.95; Nov, £101.35. Sales, 145 lots.

Home-Grown Cereal Authority.—Due to the very small quantities of grain traded, no spot prices are available.

MEAT COMMISSION.—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Dec 28.—GB cattle, 80.98p per kg lw (−0.50). UK sheep, 139.8p per kg est d c w (+7.0). GB pigs, 73.2p per kg lw (+1.6). England and Wales: Cattle average price 80.68p (−0.71). Sheep average price 140.4p (+7.8). Pig average price 73.2p (+1.6). Scotland: Cattle numbers down 44.4 per cent, average price 82.44p (+0.91). Sheep numbers up 38.4 per cent, average price 137.9p (+7.0). Pig numbers down 31.6 per cent, average price 76.0p (+4.0).

Foreign exchange report

In another light day's trade yesterday the pound gave back a little of recent good gains. Its trade-weighted level easing to 70.3 from 70.5. After extremes of 2.2425 and 2.2270 Sterling finished slightly lower at 2.2343 against the dollar compared with Thursday night's 2.2400.

Operators kept fresh commitments to a minimum in view of the weekend, and some banks had already ruled off their books for 1979.

Although still a rather nervous market, pressure subsided on the dollar, and after losing fresh ground at the outset, the currency rallied to show small net gains in places. Rises over Europeans included the D mark, 1.72525 (1.7220), Swiss franc 1.5905 (1.5845) though a minor fall still obtained against the French franc 4.0225 (4.0300). The yen moved narrowly to end easier at 240.10 (previously 239.45).

Sterling Spot and Forward

Sterling: Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

EMS European Currency Rates

Gold

Euro-$ Deposits

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone: 01-638 3651

The Over-the-Counter Market

1978/79 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
99	39	Airsprung Group	75	—	6.7	8.9	*4.4
50	35	Armitage & Rhodes	38	—	3.8	10.0	*2.5
223	143	Bardon Hill	219xd	—	13.8	6.3	*6.4
101	50	Deborah Ord	92	—	5.0	5.4	10.1
353	149	Deborah 17½% CULS	353	—	17.5	5.0	—
90	88	Frank Horsell	90	—	7.9	8.8	5.6
147	100	Frederick Parker	107	—	12.8	12.0	*8.3
158	110	George Blair	110	—	16.5	15.0	*—
61	45	Jackson Group	59	—	5.2	8.8	*3.5
153	97	James Burrough	116	—	7.2	6.2	10.2
342	242	Robert Jenkins	244	—	31.3	12.8	*4.8
232	150	Torday Limited	223	—	14.3	6.4	*5.8
34	14	Twinlock Ord	17	—	0.8	4.9	*3.2
82	69	Twinlock 12% ULS	76	—	12.0	15.8	—
56	23	Unilock Holdings	56	—	2.6	4.6	11.9
84	42	Walter Alexander	83	—	4.4	5.3	5.5
190	136	W. S. Yeates	184	—	11.5	6.3	7.1
189	185	W. S. Yeates New	185	—	—	—	—

*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Offshore and International Funds

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 28. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

FUNDS

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

1978/79 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
136	82	AAH	179	..	10.0	8.4	7.3
46	35	AC Cars	42	..	0.7	1.6	7.5
188	55½	AGB Research	156	+3	6.3n	4.0	17.5
74	22	Al Ind Prod	23	..	3.3	14.6	2.2
257	141	APV Hldgs	181	+5	9.4b	5.2	4.4
91	34¼	Aaronson Bros	61	..	5.3	8.7	5.0
135	85	Acrow	88	..	4.3	4.9	5.8
100½	36	Do A	40	+1	4.3	10.7	2.8
210	113	Advest Group	190	..	9.6	5.1	7.5
222	57	Aeron'l & Gen	222	..	4.0	1.8	21.1
55	29	Aero Needles	29	..	3.6	12.0	9.9
58	21	Airfix Ind	22	-½	3.2	25.8	3.5
12¼	5½	Akzo	12½	-½	23.3	4.2	..
199	80	Alcan Alum UK	89	..	14.1	16.1	5.1
91	72½	Do 10½%	47½	..	1050	14.1	..
55¼	35¼	Allen W. G.	38	..	4.2	11.1	3.8
154	82	Allied Colloids	134	+1	3.6	2.7	21.3
39	18	Allied Plant	31	..	2.3	7.3	7.2
139	35½	Alpine Hldgs	111	..	5.3	4.8	10.9
315	268	Amal Metal	270	..	12.8	4.7	8.4
171	63	Amal Power	67	+1	8.6	12.9	1.7
58	32	Amber Day	38	..	4.0	10.5	3.6
44	19	Amber Ind Hldgs	34	..	0.9	2.7	4.9
86	60	Anchor Chem	86	..	7.0	7.9	9.7
76	38½	Anderson-Strath	58	-½	4.3	7.4	6.5
99	46	Anglia TV 'A'	62	..	4.8	7.7	5.0
825	430	Anglo Amer Ind	813	..	50.7	6.2	7.2
114	60	Appleyard	66	..	8.9b	13.5	3.6
51½	27½	Aquascutum 'A'	29½	..	2.7	9.3	3.9
67	37½	Arenson Hldgs	60	+2	2.5	4.2	4.7
142	98	Arlington Mtr	112	-2	12.9	11.5	4.3
63½	39½	Armitage Shanks	47½	-½	5.2	10.9	5.7

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

O — S

T — Z

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

Law Report December 28 1979 Court of Appeal

Failure to disclose changed circumstances may invalidate immigrants' entry certificate

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Zamir

Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Brandon

[Judgments delivered Dec 21]

Where an immigrant to the United Kingdom fails to disclose a change in the circumstances on which he relied to obtain an entry certificate, failure to do so may amount to obtaining leave by deceit, whether or not such conduct constitutes a criminal offence, and the entry certificate may be invalidated.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Mohammed Zamir against the refusal of the Divisional Court (the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Mr Justice Neill) of his application for habeas corpus.

Miss A. M. Turkan for the applicant; Mr Simon Brown for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH said that on November 25, 1975, when the applicant was 18, a visa was granted to him valid for presentation in the United Kingdom within three months. On the visa was written "Settlement to join father". On February 10, 1976, *he married in Pakistan and arrived* in this country on March 2, being given indefinite leave to enter on the strength of the visa. He had not disclosed his marriage.

When the Home Office was informed that the applicant's wife and son had applied to enter the United Kingdom, he was interviewed on August 30, 1978. He said that he had not mentioned his marriage to the entry clearance officer because it had not been arranged until four or five weeks after he had received his visa; that he had also not told the immigration officer of his marriage; and that he had not been asked any questions about it.

It was contended that the applicant was an illegal immigrant when he came to the United Kingdom. The visa had been granted on the basis that he satisfied paragraph 39 of the Immigration Rules (1973) (HC81) which provided that "an unmarried and fully dependent son under 21 . . . who formed part of the family unit overseas may be admitted if the whole family are settled in the United Kingdom". But the basis had ceased to exist because the applicant not only was a married man but was also not fully dependent on his father.

The court was referred to paragraph 10; ". . . A passenger who holds an entry clearance . . . is not to be refused leave to enter unless the immigration officer is satisfied that: (a) false representations were employed or material facts were concealed, whether or not to the holder's knowledge, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance, or (b) a change of circumstances since it was issued has removed the basis of the holder's claim to admission . . ."

The marriage, it was argued, was clearly a change of circumstances: and though the applicant had probably ceased to be dependent on his father before the date of issue the absence of dependency was also such a change, or alternatively a material fact which the applicant had concealed for the purpose of obtaining clearance.

For the applicant it was said that the visa was issued on the basis of the application. In so far the marriage was concerned, it was irrelevant and could not operate as a change of circumstances *within paragraph 10*. In so far as dependency was relevant the applicant had made no untrue representations and was under no duty to disclose the fact that he was no longer dependent. If the visa had been granted on the basis of paragraph 39 there was no duty to disclose the marriage.

The provisions of the Immigration Act, 1971, were important. An immigrant had no right to enter, and there were conditions which had to be fulfilled. If a person knew that he was ineligible and deliberately concealed information about his circumstances either by an untruthful answer or by silence he was practising a deceit.

The Lord Chief Justice had referred to the principle that if an entrant was guilty of fraud, if he was guilty of misrepresentation made with a view to obtaining an entry document, the document was vitiated by the fraud. His Lordship had been asked what was to be done where there had been no disclosure by the applicant in circumstances in which one would have expected him, if honest, to make disclosure. His Lordship believed that the statement of principle was governed by the words "in circumstances in which one would have expected him, if honest, to make disclosure".

It was not necessary to show an offence under section 26 of the 1971 Act before permission to enter could be invalidated. The question of invalidation on the ground of deceit ought not to be approached by reference to the criminal law.

It was not easy to discuss in strictly legal terms the extent to which a right had been conferred on a person who had obtained a concession by way of favour. Invited guests were entitled to the utmost respect. Gatecrashers were never welcome and had no rights. In deciding whether a person was a gatecrasher the minister should be entitled to approach the matter on a commonsense basis. Where a person was neither frank nor honest in the way in which he had obtained leave to enter, his leave could be invalidated when it had been given on a misunderstanding as to his qualifications *for which some deceit or trickery* on his part was responsible. A reference to honesty was very appropriate in cases not concerned with strict legal rights: see *With v O'Flanagan* ([1936] Ch 575, 584).

There was abundant evidence upon which the minister could conclude that the applicant knew that his marriage would be fatal to his request for admission and deliberately refrained from revealing it. The dependency question also lent support to the conclusion in so far as the concealment of the marriage was concerned.

In any event, on the facts, there was evidence of a *positive* misrepresentation implicit in the presentation. His Lordship agreed with what Lord Justice Stephenson would say on the matter. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE BRANDON said that there had been considerable argument whether a person seeking leave to enter was under a duty to disclose material facts even if not asked about them. It was not possible to give a simple answer which would apply in all cases. The categories of deceit were never closed, and it was a question of fact in each case.

On the facts of the case his Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Stephenson.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON said that there was no reason to consider whether the evidence which the minister had to consider could properly have satisfied a jury that the applicant was guilty of an offence against section 26(1)(b) of the 1971 Act, nor whether there was a general duty on immigrants to disclose information which they were not required by immigration officers to furnish.

The minister had reasonable grounds for deciding that by March 2, 1976, the applicant must have known that the changes in his circumstances might and almost certainly would disqualify him from entering, and lead the immigration officer to refuse leave to enter; and that the applicant's misrepresentation had not been withdrawn or modified after he had known that it had become false and had deceived the immigration officer into granting leave which would have been refused if he had acted honestly.

His Lordship was not sure whether, in approaching the decision in that way, he was taking even a modest step forward along the path laid down by previous authority or whether he was in real disagreement with the Lord Chief Justice in the reason for upholding the decision. The duty to disclose should be confined to changes of circumstances "material to the immigration history", to which the Lord Chief Justice had clearly confined it, but there was a continuation of a would-be entrant's representation of qualifying status until withdrawn: see *With v O'Flanagan* and the criminal cases of continuing false pretences.

The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Hall-Wrights, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor.

Blood sample irregularity: conviction upheld

Regina v Trump

Before Lord Justice Eveleigh, Mr Justice Wien and Mr Justice Drake

[Judgments delivered Dec 21]

Although a specimen of blood taken for establishing an offence of driving under the influence of drink was unlawfully obtained by the police, in that the defendant did not consent within the meaning of section 7(1) of the Road Traffic Act, 1972, it was within the discretion of the judge to admit the evidence from the specimen. The case was not governed by any rule of compulsory exclusion.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by *Ronald Charles Henry* Trump, aged 35, against conviction at Bristol Crown Court (Deputy Circuit Judge Hawkins) under section 5(1) of the Road Traffic Act. He had been fined £100 and disqualified from driving for a year.

Section 5(1) provides: "A person who, when driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, is unfit to drive through drink or drugs shall be guilty of an offence."

Section 7(1) provides: "In any proceedings for an offence under section 5 . . . the court shall . . . have regard to any evidence which may be given of the proportion or quantity of alcohol or of any drug which was contained in the blood or present in the body of the accused, as ascertained by analysis of a specimem of blood taken from him with his consent by a medical practitioner, or of urine provided by him, . . ."

Mr Michael Vyvyan-Jones for the appellant; Mr Graham Jones for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that the ground of appeal was that a sample of the appellant's blood which revealed an excessive concentration of alcohol had been unlawfully obtained and, consequently, that *evidence should have been* excluded at his trial.

In September, 1977, the appellant, when driving a car on a road in the Bristol area, collided with another vehicle, did not stop and drove to his home. About half an hour later he was visited by a police officer, who formed the opinion that he had had too much to drink. A breath test proved positive, and he was arrested for driving when under the influence of drink. The officer purported to act under section 5(5) of the Road Traffic Act, 1972. The prosecution conceded that the arrest was unlawful.

The appellant was told at the police station that if he failed to provide a sample of blood or urine he might make himself liable to imprisonment, a fine and disqualification. He gave a blood sample.

The duty or discretion of a judge to exclude evidence improperly obtained had been recently considered by the House of Lords in *R v Sang* ([1979] 3 WLR 263). There it was held (1) that a judge in a criminal trial had a discretion to refuse to admit evidence if its *prejudicial* effect outweighed its probative value; (2) that an involuntary confession or admission was inadmissible in evidence; and *(3) that there was room for further* consideration of evidence tantamount to a self-incriminatory admission which was obtained from the defendant, after the offence had been committed, by means which would justify a judge in excluding an actual confession which had the like self-incriminating effect, and room also for consideration of the effect of a judge's duty to ensure a fair trial. Apart from that, there was no general discretion to exclude evidence improperly obtained.

Their Lordships thought that a limited exception in cases analogous to improperly obtained admissions was recognized to exist by the House of Lords, although the extent of the exception had not been fully considered. *His* Lordship referred to passages in the speeches in the House including that of Lord Scarman, at page 290: "If an accused is misled or tricked into providing evidence (whether it be an admission or the provision of fingerprints or medical evidence or some other evidence), the rule against self-incrimination—nemo tenetur se ipsum prodere—is likely to be infringed. Each case must, of course, depend on its circumstances."

There were two aspects of the problem before the court. One was whether the court should attempt to discipline the police by seeing to it that irregular behaviour would be fruitless. The other was to ensure that the trial itself was fair. It was possible to regard a trial as being fair even though the evidence was unfairly or improperly obtained.

It was conceded by the appellant that the constable was entitled to demand a specimen of breath for a breath test by virtue of section 8(2) of the Act. Further, it was accepted that as the test proved positive the constable had the power of arrest by virtue of section 8(4). Had he exercised that power the result of the analysis of the blood would have been admissible as evidence, for the necessary formalities in the Act would have been complied with. The only flaw was that the officer purported to act under section 5(5) instead of section 8(4). [Section 5(5) related to arrest for a section 5(1) offence.]

As there had been no deliberate misconduct by the officer, it hardly seemed a case where the court should seek to discipline the police even if there might be cases where *the exclusion of evidence* for disciplinary reasons might be justified. Similarly, it did not seem to be a case where the evidence could undermine the fairness of the trial or the reliability of the verdict. If the judge had a discretion he clearly exercised it properly.

The appellant argued that there was no discretion. He claimed that the evidence was governed by a compulsory exclusionary rule. He said that it was clear from the strict procedural requirements, laid down by Parliament in sections 8 and 9 of the Act, which had to be fulfilled before a sample could be taken, that Parliament must have intended that no adverse consequences should follow when a sample had been obtained other than by a strict compliance with the procedure. Counsel said that there could have been no conviction under section 6(1). ["If a person drives . . . a motor vehicle on a road . . . having consumed alcohol in such quantity that the proportion thereof in his blood . . . exceeds the prescribed limit . . . he shall be guilty of an offence."] And similarly there should be no conviction based upon the analysis for an offence under section 5(1).

The essence of the offence under section 6 was that the proportion of alcohol in the blood exceeded the prescribed limit. That amount had to be ascertained from a laboratory test, for which the accused provided a specimen under section 9. However, the procedure under section 9 was not a condition precedent to the obtaining of a specimen for the purposes of evidence tendered by virtue of section 7. The latter evidence, moreover, had to be admitted for the section provided that the court must have regard to it.

It seemed clear that Parliament was anxious to see that no one should be submitted to the indignity of a breath test and its consequences at the whim of any police officer. It thus provided a procedural safeguard. If the safeguard was complied with, the fact that there might be an irregularity in some other direction could not affect the validity of the analysis for the purposes of section 6.

Furthermore, in so far as the offence under section 5 was concerned, the specimen of blood which revealed the evidence tendered by virtue of section 7 must be taken with the consent of the accused. If he consented, then the court had no power to exclude that evidence.

In the present case it would seem that the appellant gave his consent as a result of the warning that he might be prosecuted for failure to provide the specimen. The officer in giving that warning was following the procedure applicable to obtaining a specimen under section 9, not under section 7.

The specimen thus obtained was not a specimen obtained with the accused's consent within the meaning of section 7, and therefore there was no obligation to admit the evidence by virtue of section 7.

Their Lordships thought that it was consistent with all of the speeches in *R v Sang* to hold that the evidence provided by the appellant, in the circumstances of the present case, should be treated as being subject to the discretion of the judge as to admissibility. It was provided by the appellant as a result of a threat. The officer was responsible for the threat, but he had acted in good faith.

It was a case for the judge's discretion rather than one for compulsory exclusion because evidence analogous to admissions was so treated in *R v Sang*. In their Lordships' judgment the judge would have been exercising his discretion improperly if he had excluded the evidence.

Solicitors: Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr R. O. M. Lovibond, Bristol.

Queen's Bench Division

Mareva injunction no bar to signing judgment

Stewart Chartering Ltd v C & O Managements SA and Another

Before Mr Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 21]

The *rule* preventing a plaintiff from signing judgment in default of appearance where the writ is endorsed with a claim for an injunction did not avail a defendant against whom a Mareva injunction had been granted.

His Lordship, in an action by the plaintiffs, Stewart Chartering Ltd, for a liquidated sum brought against the defendants, C & O Managements SA, granted an ex-parte application by the plaintiffs for leave to sign judgment in default of appearance. The defendants, who were outside the jurisdiction, had been served with notice of the writ pursuant to leave granted under Order II of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Order 13, rule 6 provides: "(1) Where a writ is indorsed with a claim of a description not mentioned in rules 1 to 4, then, if any defendent fails to enter an appearance, the plaintiff may, after the time limited for appearing . . . proceed with the action as if that defendant had entered an appearance". A claim for an injunction does not come within rules 1 to 4.

Mr Jonathan Hirst for the plaintiffs.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in the ordinary case, no appearance having been entered, judgment could be entered for the sum claimed without leave of the court; but the matter was complicated by the fact that, in order to obtain a Mareva injunction, the writ had been indorsed with a claim for an injunction. In such circumstances, having regard to Order 13, rule 6, it was *not possible* for the plaintiffs simply to enter judgment in default of appearance. Accordingly, the chief clerk in the judgment room had rightly declined to permit the plaintiffs so to proceed.

One was therefore presented with the paradoxical situation that, because the plaintiffs had obtained *an injunction designed to prevent* the defendants from removing assets from the jurisdiction in order to prevent the plaintiffs from satisfying any judgment, the plaintiffs were inhibited from signing judgment in default of appearance, which was the next step which would ordinarily be taken with a view to enforcing their claim.

The solution to the problem lay in the inherent jurisdiction of the court to control its own process, and in particular to prevent any possible abuse of its process.

If the plaintiffs were unable to obtain a judgment without abandoning their Mareva injunction, a defendant could defeat the only purpose of the proceedings simply by declining to enter an appearance. Such conduct would be an abuse of the process of the court, and the court had power to take the necessary steps, by virtue of its inherent jurisdiction, to prevent any such abuse.

In such circumstances the appropriate action was to grant the plaintiff leave to enter judgment in default of appearance, notwithstanding that the writ was indorsed with a claim for an injunction. In addition, the court could order that the Mareva in*junction continue in force, after* the judgment, in aid of execution; for only so could effect be given to the policy underlying the Mareva jurisdiction.

It was appropriate in the present cast to give leave to enter judgment in default of appearance and to order that the Mareva injunction to continue in force.

The plaintiffs were awarded the costs of the hearing.

Solicitors: Constant & Constant.

University news

London

Appointments

M. Baum, MB, senior lecturer in surgery at King's College Hospital Medical School, to the chair of surgery at the school from April 1. Dr P. L. Lantos, MD, PhD, senior lecturer in neuropathology at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, to the chair of neuropathology at the Institute of Psychiatry: Dr K. B. Saunders, MB, BChir, MA, MD, senior lecturer in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, to the chair of medicine at St Georges Hospital Medical School from October 1: Dr S. Selwyn, BSc, MD, formerly reader in medical microbiology at Westminster Medical School, to the chair of medical microbiology at that school.

Professorships:

Dr Olga Crisp, BA, PhD, Russian economic history at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Dr P. J. Dowling, PhD, in steel structures, at Imperial College of Science and Technology: Mr L. P. Foldes, BCom, MSc, economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science: Dr M. P. Hassell, BA, DPhil, insect ecology at Imperial College of Science and Technology: Dr D. F. Hawkins, PhD, MB, BS, DObst, DSc, MD, obstetric therapeutics at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Dr Ruth M. Hicks, BSc, PhD, DSc, experimental pathology at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School: Dr M. D. Lilly, BSc, PhD, DSc, biochemical engineering at University College, London. Mr S. J. Nickell, BA, MSc, economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science: Dr K. C. Rosser, BA, PhD, MA, development planning at University College London: Dr N. C. W. Spence, BA, PhD, French linguistics at Bedford College.

Readerships:

Dr M. F. Cottrall, BA, MSc, PhD, physics, as applied to medicine at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine: Dr D. A. Currie, BSc, PhD, economics, at the London School of Economics: Dr R. T. Fenner, BSc (Eng), PhD, engineering at Imperial College of Science and Technology: Dr W. P. Griffith, BSc, PhD, DSc, inorganic chemistry at Imperial College of Science and technology: Mr D. Jacobson, BA, English at University College London: Dr A. K. Prince, BSc, PhD, pharmacology at King's College: Dr A. H. S. Rahi, BSc, MB, BS, MDPath, PhD, immunopathology at the Institute of *Ophthalmology*: Dr L. V. C. Rees, BSc, PhD, DSc, physical chemistry at Imperial College of Science and Technology: Dr F. T. Smith, B.A., DPhil, applied mathematics at Imperial College of Science and Technology.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

The following have been elected honorary fellows:

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Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound

Brandy glass and champagne glass, each £1.65 (from £2.55) liqueur glass £1.30 (£2) and ship's decanter £11.05 (£17) all by Dartington from Liberty's, Regent Street, W1.

You should be extraordinarily methodical or totally mad to be a sful sales shopper. Only can plough through the s in pursuit of your goal, rted by special purchases ple plastic anoraks, or if ad such a frenzied exis- that a crowd of 5,000 is nother cocktail party, will ver emerge triumphant our tuppence off.

it is impossible to cover sale in every city, or even sale in one city, I have centrate on the ones in n that offer some of the argains. I add a plea for ce to those who live too ay to make a special sales orth while. I don't think rld ends at World's End am going to make ng excursions to major during the year. In fact, have favourite out-of- shops that you think unusual goods or spec- rices, please let me know. s you are making a dous saving on something big name in fashion, I he best bargains are in the household depart- so that is where I have trated my search. Many tarted this week, and stores have many more s than those mentioned, have picked the items in supplies and offering larly good value.

End

s and Jones: Regent W1 (December 27 to 31). Plain white Italian cache pots, large £6.85 £10.75), medium £6.15 9.50) small £4.50 (from m their discovery shop; lection of Portmeirion in Britannic Gardens rds of Britain ranges. prices: 10 inch dinner 2.15, rolling pin £3.55, d saucer £2 from the nd glass department.

s: Regent Street, W1 ber 27 for three weeks). nt plain glass by Dar- brandy and champagne .65 each (£2.55) liqueur (£2), ship's decanter (£17). Pretty Liberty rons, £2.25 (£4.75).

: New Bond Street ber 27 to January 19). rom fashion bargains, 20 nt off all Le Creuset re—a skillet for ex- £7 (£9.50), saucepan £13.50).

and Edgar: Piccadilly W1 (December 27 to 12). A third off Teflon ware, and MRP Tower cookware; plain dyed hand size £2.99 (£3.50), eet £7.99 (£8.99).

ites: Piccadilly Circus December 27 to January ison Connors American Tennis racquet £5.95 ; Lillywhites squash £6.75 (£9.75); Kastle 9.50 (£55); Davos ski 26.95 (£35); Look 180 £14.75 (£21); Adidas training shoes £16.95 ; Olympic ski goggles 6.75).

Tottenham Court Road, ecember 29 to January Tetrad day beds, £279 big selection of Heal's at £1 a metre (£4.20); and double Conelight £5.95 (£8.50) and £25.95); towelling loung- es in a selection of and colours, £23.95

Tottenham Court Road, on Road and branches ber 27 for at least two Silent night divans— Firmalux 3ft, £69 (£75); ow Firmapedia 4ft 6in, £129); deep buttoned rth suites in mohair Dralon, various colours, 99).

tsbridge

Nichols, Knightsbridge y 4 for at least two Hosiery: Sunarama ers, 99p (£1.95); Wol- Perfection tights, 79p Wolford Trilobal shim- hts, 99p (£2.40). Hand silk cushions, £10 (£26); ampagne glasses by Bac- 5.99 each (£9.10); Frigi- idge/freezer, 22 cu ft, 940); National Panasonic centre with speakers, 315).

; (January 5 to January Superwashed Chinese n and Pekin design car- t x 9ft, £950 (£1,730); stowaway 3-speed fold- cle, £76 (£95); 14-inch colour portable TV, £199 pure silk 14-inch lamp £17.50 (£35); range of f the best shavers avail- Braun: Compact, £18 Intercontinental re- ble, £32 (£37.55); £26 (£29.50); Lady £14 (£16.75).

alist Shops

Mellor, 4 Sloane Square, January 12 to January o special purchase or dard goods, but 10 per ff the whole stock of r and Wusthof cook's Silcro, Prinz, Le Copco and Robert cooking pots. A special cent reduction on first David Mellor cutlery plies to all mail orders posted during the sale period. A place setting of Provencal, for instance, normally £17.19, would cost £14.63.

Nice Irma's, 46 Goodge Street, W1 (January 2 to January 31) specialize in inexpensive but exclusive fabrics from India. Sanganere cotton £1.35 a yard (£2.05) velvet £1 (£3.15); jumbo floor cushion covers 35 in square in patterned velvet £4.75 (£9.15) and in sanganere cotton £3.50 (£6.25); hand loomed cotton bedspreads, single £3.25 (£5.35), double £3.95 (£5.90).

Cucina, 8 Englands Lane, NW3 and 4 Ladbroke Grove, W11 (January 8 for two weeks) specializes in wicker furniture, cookware. Two seater wicker sofas £29.50 (£42), wicker basket seats, £25.50 (£31.79); split cane letter racks, £3.20 (£5.93).

Dilemma, 22 Thackeray Street London W8 (January 7 to January 31). A selection of end-of-line objects which are not repeatable, mostly whimsical, sometimes uncompromisingly vulgar. Large supplies of the city gent pottery illustrated.

London and Provinces

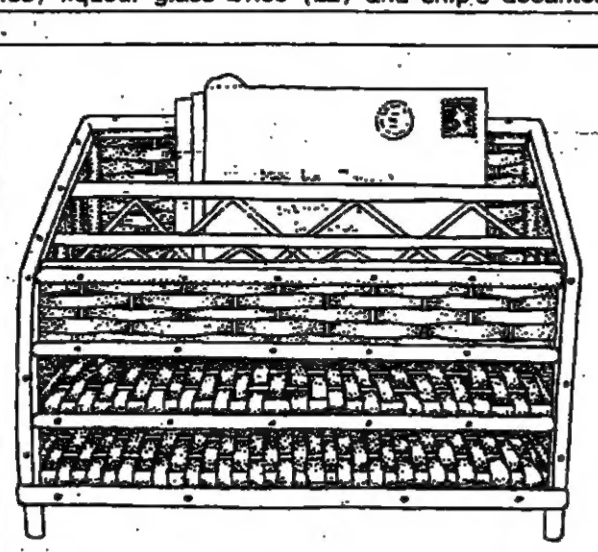
Army & Navy and Barkers, Kensington High Street (December 27th to January 26th). Most luxurious of all Continental quilts, filled with Goose down—double size, 200 x 198 cm £79.95 (£159.95). Versatile sewing machine, the New Home XL11, will do 26 different stitches, including six for embroidery, £229.95 (£424), also at Camberley and Maidstone; good quality silver plate 44-piece canteens in Kings and Dubarry patterns by Butlers, £199 (£285), at all stores except Eastbourne.

Libertys, Glasgow and Edinburgh (on now for three weeks). and Russell & Dorrell, Worcester (starts December 31st). Liberty print silk ties, £3.95 (£9.25), long silk scarves £3 (£11.25), wool and silk squares, £5 (£10.60) and hundreds of Liberty print dress lengths, 2½ to 4 metres, with up to 70 per cent reductions. Tana lawn, perfect for Spring, at £2 a metre from £3.85.

Debenhams, London and branches (December 27 to January 12). 10 per cent off usual prices for Sekers, Moygashel and Rembrandt custom made curtains; Wigmore Wilton velvet and twist pile carpets. 12ft wide, £11.95 a metre (£14.29); Debenhams gardening tools, digging fork and spade, each £6.50 (£8.99), border fork and spade, each £6.25 (£8.75).

Top: Italian ceramic cache pot comes in various sizes, small £4.50 (from £8), medium £6.15 (£9.50) and large £6.85 (£10.75) from the discovery shop at Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, W1.

Above: Scarlet moon boots, completely waterproof, £10.95 (from £12.95) at Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, SW1.



Above: Split cane letter rack £3.30 (from £5.93) at Cucina, 8 Englands Lane, NW3 and 4 Ladbroke Grove, W11. Sale starts January 8.

Right: Blue towelling lounging robe, medium size, from a selection at Heal's, Tottenham Court Road, W1, at £23.95 (from £29.95).

Right: Dotty "City Gent" tea pot £3.85 (from £6.75), milk jug £1.55 (£2.66) sugar bowl 75p (£1.25), cup and saucer £1.35 (£2.35) and plates 75p (£1.25). All from Dilemma, 22 Thackeray Street, W8.

■ It is always a joy to come across variations of the old phrase book routine. No one has yet managed to produce a collection that isn't absolutely farcical and now Linguaphone has gone one better with their 'In-car' language cassette, called Road to French, £2.95 from large bookshops.

It has been "carefully researched to include the most useful expressions" and you simply pop the cassette into your car player and while you speed down the Route Nationale 7 behind 150 container trucks, a fruity voiced Frenchman whispers such sweet nothings as "Weyre ees the Purst Uffeece?"

It is the sequence of events in such phrase guides that cannot hope to avoid the absurd, because one tends to string them together into sentences. "I've had an accident, my left leg hurts, my right arm hurts, I've got a headache, I've got a sore throat, I've got a stomach upset." I'd have a derangement after that lot, too.

The only trouble about a cassette is that you can't quickly flip through to find the appropriate phrase when you most need it. Nor can you possibly cover all eventualities, and braving a Channel crossing just to eat egg mayonnaise, the dish of the day and French beans and carrots is a waste of effort only exceeded by that intrepid daredevil on television who leaps about so exhaustingly just because the lady loves Milk Tray.

What you will get from this cassette is an absolutely delicious Sacha Distel accent and you will no doubt have traffic wardens swooning at your feet when you ask where to find the nearest parking meter.

I am reminded of the most hilarious phrase book I ever read, which I picked up in Greece. It was of the "my postilion has been struck by lightning" vintage and it started sympathetically with "Your father does not look well today", followed immediately by "No, he was born in 1876," which certainly might have accounted for a slight pallor in 1977.

It continued with such happy juxtapositions for a couple of hundred pages and if I hadn't left it by mistake at Athens airport, I would have run the distinct danger of contributing a final Useful Phrase: "Your English friend is very amused." "Yes, she is in/from the asylum."

■ Houseminding is a service which is well established in America and Australia, but is relatively new here. It's aim is to take away the worry of leaving your home, pets, plants, paraphernalia when you go away, whether for a weekend or longer.

A small company called Houseminders was established last year by the Hon Mrs Jacaranda MacDonald and two friends. They operate only in the London area, but they provide a service which is worth copying in other parts of the country.

For a fee of £5 a day (less if you are away for long periods) one of their team will visit your home, feed your pet, water the plants, forward the mail, stock the fridge on your return, turn on heating, order newspapers. They will even arrange to dry clean clothes, curtains and loose covers.

Even if you are simply out of the house for the day, they can arrange to be there when deliveries are expected, or to supervise plumbers, builders or maintenance people. And, of course, having someone regularly in the house is an excellent burglar deterrent. Enquiries to Houseminders, 28 Launceston Place, London W8, 01-937 5955.

■ The prospect of £2-a-gallon petrol has made me wonder about the effectiveness of petrol saving devices and as I find nothing quite so stultifyingly boring as a full-frontal engine (apart from a football player from any angle) I sought expert advice.

Said the AA: "The best thing you could buy is a new right foot. We have done a lot of tests on petrol savers and some are positively fraudulent and others only accidentally so."

The 127 tests they made in controlled conditions showed that not one device lived up to the claims made. Several of the products had been around for up to 30 years and had just been resurrected as alleged petrol savers because of the oil crisis.

However, bearing in mind that, apart from being light on the accelerator, the best way of saving fuel is to concentrate on tuning and ignition, the AA does give its approval to some items which the d-i-y car mechanic will know about already, but which might be new to those, like me, who find that to drive hopefully is better than to arrive, spanner in hand, at a class in car maintenance.

One is Gunson's Colortune 500, a test spark plug with a glass top that takes the guesswork out of engine tuning. You can see the colour of the combustion flame through it and you adjust until it turns blue. If it is orange or yellow, the mixture is too rich. Kit containing plug and accessories available from Halfords and motor accessory shops at prices varying from about £8 to £10.69.

The other recommended device is the Kenlowe electric fan, which replaces the mechanical fan and allows the engine to warm up more quickly. The Thermomatic cooling fan is driven by its own electric motor and so does not use engine power. A sensor measures the water temperature and cuts the fan in automatically only when it is needed.

The fan comes complete with everything necessary for fixing. The £35.82 model is suitable for cars up to 1800cc, the £40.62 model is for cars with engines above 2 litres. Kenlowe will give you precise advice for your particular car, taking into account make, model, year and engine size.

The prices include postage and VAT and the fans can be obtained from Kenlowe Accessories and Company Limited, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire. They pride themselves on a 48 hour despatch.

■ I am too much of a coward to enter into the vitamin E controversy, although I will go so far as to say that no one has yet proved to my satisfaction that putting it on the outside of your body will do anything for you that other emollients won't.

However, I have been trying out the Tiki range of Vitamin E skin cream, £1.60, hand and body lotion, £1.01 and "high potency" oil, £1.97, and although no one has actually fallen back in amazement at my rejuvenation, I did find them pleasant to use.

I have a very dry skin and most so-called moisturisers leave it feeling tight and undernourished. The hand and body lotion does leave the skin feeling smooth and silky and if you have dry skin, too, I think you will particularly like the skin cream, which is richer than many.

You may also like to know that the Tiki range is made to Beauty Without Cruelty standards and involves no cruelty to animals either in the extraction of the ingredients or in the testing of the products. They are available in health shops.

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,109

This puzzle, used at the York regional final of the Cutty Sark/Times National Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 7 per cent of the finalists.

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This office will be CLOSED on DECEMBER 29 and JANUARY 1.

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Due to continued severe staff shortages a skeleton staff only will be here between 9.30 and 3.00 on DECEMBER 31.

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